E/1993/36
E/ESCAP/927

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT
24 April 1992-29 April 1993

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1993

SUPPLEMENT No. 16

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

E/1993/36
E/ESCAP/927

ISSN: 0252 - 2284

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ACU	Asian Clearing Union
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCC	Asian and Pacific Coconut Community
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APENPLAN	Asian and Pacific Energy Planning Network
APPU	Asian Pacific Postal Union
APT	Asia Pacific Telecommunity
ARSAP	agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
CCOP	Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas
CEC	Commission of the European Communities
CGPRT Centre	Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
CITYNET	Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements
COTAC	ASEAN Committee on Transportation and Communications
ECCT	Energy Conservation Center of Thailand
ECDC	economic cooperation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ESCAP/POC	ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Communities
FADINAP	ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GIS	geographic information systems
GSP	generalized system of preferences
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICP	International Comparison Programme
IFA	International Fertilizer Industry Association
IJO	International Jute Organization
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INRO	International Natural Rubber Organization
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
IOMAC	Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation
IPC	Integrated Programme for Commodities
ISA	International Silk Association
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union

ABBREVIATIONS (*continued*)

JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LEMIGAS	Oil and Gas Technology Development Centre (of Indonesia)
MPPM	maritime policy planning model
NAFTA	North American free trade agreement
NFIS	Network of Fertilizer Information Systems
NGOs	non-governmental organizations
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PEDP	Pacific Energy Development Programme
POPIN	Population Information Network
REDP	Regional Energy Development Programme
RMSS	regional maritime strategy study
RNAM	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
RRSP	Regional Remote Sensing Programme
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SEATRADC	Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SNA	United Nations System of National Accounts
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPC	South Pacific Commission
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TISNET	Regional Trade Information Network
UNAFEI	United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCRD	United Nations Centre for Regional Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WASME	World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period 24 April 1992 to 29 April 1993, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at its 750th meeting on 29 April 1993.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

Resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific

2. At its 750th meeting, the Commission approved the following draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action:

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Recommends* to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Noting* resolution 49/2 of 29 April 1993 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,

"*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984, by which the Assembly proclaimed a Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific during the period 1985-1994, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/78 of 27 July 1984 on the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994,

"*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/75 of 26 July 1991, in which the Council urged all appropriate organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, to contribute effectively to the formulation and implementation of a regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade, and General Assembly decision 46/453 of 20 December 1991, by which the Assembly endorsed Council resolution 1991/75,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,

"*Concerned* that the regional action programme may not be able to be implemented effectively and efficiently without adequate funds, particularly from the United Nations Development Programme, and noting the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in this regard,

"1. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme, in the light of General Assembly decision 46/453 of 20 December 1991 on phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, to reconsider its decision regarding the level of funding to be provided for the implementation of the regional action programme so as to enable phase II (1992-1996) of the Decade to have greater impact;

"2. *Requests* bilateral donors to take note of General Assembly decision 46/453, so as to ensure that the programme approved by the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, held at Bangkok in June 1992, will be implemented effectively;

"3. *Invites* all Governments in a position to do so to contribute to the implementation of the programme approved by the Meeting of Ministers;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the action taken to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session."

Venue of the fiftieth session of the Commission

3. At the 742nd meeting of the Commission on 22 April 1993, the Government of India offered to hold the fiftieth session of the Commission at New Delhi in 1994. The Government of India agreed to bear all responsibility for the additional administrative, logistical and financial expenditure involved in holding the session away from the headquarters of the Commission.

4. At the same meeting, the Commission accepted the invitation of the Government of India and decided to hold the fiftieth session at New Delhi, subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

49/1. Implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment

49/2. Resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific

49/3. Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific

49/4. Population and sustainable development: goals and strategies into the twenty-first century

49/5. Regional programme on space applications for development

49/6. Proclamation and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

49/7. Implementation of decisions of the General Assembly on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, in Asia and the Pacific

49/8. Strengthening assistance to least developed countries

49/9. Eradication of preventable diseases in the Asian and Pacific region as a component of social and economic development

49/10. Strengthening the role of ESCAP in the coordination of regional operational activities

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

5. During the period under review, the following subsidiary bodies convened meetings: Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, Committee on Statistics, Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, and the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex III. The activities of the subsidiary bodies since the forty-eighth session of the Commission are highlighted below. Lists of publications, meetings and advisory and other services under each subprogramme are provided in the annex to this chapter.

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation

Development issues and policies

6. The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1992*, part one, provided an overview of development trends and issues in the region against the backdrop of developments in the world economy, and a review of the recent growth performance of the developing countries of the region. Despite the recessionary conditions in the world economy, the economies of the developing Asian and Pacific countries continued to be resilient owing to growing domestic demand, the improved efficiency and competitiveness of exports and the cumulative effects of domestic economic reforms. Nevertheless, after several decades of development efforts, a large number of economies in the region were still weak and fragile, especially the disadvantaged economies, such as the least developed, land-locked, and island developing economies, and the economies in transition from central planning to a market-oriented system. The *Survey* drew particular attention to the problems of those economies and the measures that could be taken to meet their special needs. It also discussed health and nutrition in relation to social development, focusing on issues of major concern in the region.

7. The secretariat provided inputs on inter-subregional economic cooperation and issues pertaining to the economies in transition for the first meeting of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation. The secretariat also prepared a survey of trade and investment trends for the theme study of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, which constituted part two of the *Survey*.

8. To follow up Commission resolution 48/8 of 23 April 1992 on problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region, a joint mission with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was fielded to newly independent Asian republics. A paper was prepared on their general economic conditions, macroeconomic performance, and prospects for greater interaction with Asian and Pacific economies. Having secured the necessary funding, the secretariat was preparing to hold national workshops on economic reforms in the economies in transition.

9. The secretariat continued work on macro-economic modelling. It held a seminar on medium-term development planning techniques and prepared a paper, based on its research and projection work, on the performance of and prospects for the economies in the ESCAP region. As one of its activities relating to the social consequences of economic restructuring, the secretariat held a seminar in which country experience and regional perspectives and issues were discussed.

International trade and development finance (excluding tourism)

10. Although the thematic programme of work would not be implemented formally until the biennium 1994-1995, the secretariat's activities were already being given a thematic orientation. The study on the theme topic of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, "Expansion of investment and intraregional trade as a vehicle for enhancing regional economic cooperation and development", was published as part two of the *Survey 1992*. The Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation held its first session at Bangkok in October and November 1992, and its Steering Group held its first meeting at New Delhi in November 1992. The second meeting of the Steering Group and the second session of the Committee were held at Bangkok in April 1993. The convening of those meetings reflected the efforts to develop a framework for the integration of the thematic approach into the ESCAP programme of work. A major achievement at the meetings was the finalization of an action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission endorsed the action programme and passed a resolution in which it

recommended that implementation of the action programme be accorded priority in the work of the secretariat. Other important activities were an expert group meeting on development issues and policies, focusing on the theme study; an intergovernmental meeting on policy issues and measures relating to the effects of graduation from schemes under the generalized system of preferences; intercountry consultation on trade; and the sixth session of the Regional Consultative Group on Silk. The policy-oriented and operational activities of the subprogramme interacted effectively.

11. Operational activities included the following: a joint ESCAP/ADB advisory mission to newly independent Asian republics; technical assistance relating to commodities, intraregional trade and investment (including in the mineral sector); market and product diversification; trade facilitation; trade expansion in manufactures; and various export promotion activities, including the Asian International Silk Fair '92, held at Dusseldorf, Germany, in September 1992.

12. A few of the activities planned under the subprogramme were postponed owing to the delayed receipt of extrabudgetary funding and the difficulty in obtaining the services of suitable consultants.

Industrial and technological development

13. In the field of industrial development, the secretariat carried out activities relating to the organization of and preparations for the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, and the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials, which were held at Tehran in June 1992. The Meeting of Ministers deliberated on policy issues and strategies relating to the competitiveness of manufactured products; the appropriate climate for the enhancement of technological capability; the enhancement of industrial and technological development skills; investment promotion and industrial financing; cooperative measures for industrial and technological development in least developed and island developing countries; and environmentally sound and sustainable industrial development. The Meeting of Ministers adopted the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development, and the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific. In conjunction with the Meeting of Ministers, a private sector symposium was held on 26 June 1992, and an industrial and technological exhibition was held from 23 to 29 June 1992.

14. The secretariat continued its activities in the areas of human resources development and the promotion of small and medium industries, and provided assistance to least developed countries and the newly independent Asian republics in strengthening national capacity for industrial and technological development. Training workshops were organized on industrial project preparations and management.

15. The activities relating to the organization of a forum for promoting sustainable industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific were continued, as were the studies on investment promotion, private sector development, privatization, and improvement of the efficiency of public sector industries. The activities funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the promotion of international competitiveness and efficient resource utilization in manufacturing, and on diversified skill development for women in industry were also continued.

16. Activities to strengthen the institutional infrastructure for science and technology were pursued vigorously. Expert group meetings and workshops were held on patent laws and the legal aspects of technology transfer; national standards systems; technology management and the application and extension of the Technology Atlas. The Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology had expressed support for the temporary establishment of a technical consultancy development programme for Asia and the Pacific as an interim measure preceding the selection of a body to oversee and manage regional activities on the basis of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC). Further work was done by the secretariat on evaluating the experience of countries in the region in applying the Technology Atlas methodologies so that technological considerations could be linked systematically to the development planning process.

17. The transfer and diffusion of technology was given high priority, especially with regard to energy conservation and new and renewable sources of energy. Advisory services were rendered to improve the capability of the least developed countries to import technology. In monitoring major breakthroughs in science and technology, the secretariat continued to accord high priority to, and implement activities relating to, biotechnology and information technology. In the field of biotechnology, special importance was placed on greater regional cooperation, women's involvement in development, transfer and adaptation of technology, and the extension of biotechnology to small-scale farmers.

Transnational corporations

18. In the implementation of its programme of work and priorities, the ESCAP/TCMD (United Nations Transnational Corporations and Management Division) Joint Unit on Transnational Corporations continued efforts aimed at (a) facilitating mutually beneficial linkages through a better understanding of transnational corporations and their impact on host countries

in the Asian and Pacific region; and (b) providing policy recommendations and assisting developing countries in the ESCAP region in attracting and maintaining an increasing flow of foreign direct investment.

19. Reports and studies providing policy recommendations were being edited for publication and wider distribution to member countries. The Joint Unit and the Division initiated a project on the impact of service regulations on foreign direct investment. A major review of the Joint Unit's work programme was started in cooperation with national agencies responsible for foreign direct investment and relations with transnational corporations.

20. The Joint Unit continued to collect data on foreign direct investment in Asia and the Pacific for a forthcoming *World Investment Directory* to be published by the Division.

Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Energy

21. In June 1992 the secretariat initiated interdivisional discussions on formulating the future programme of work along thematic lines, in conformity with the decision taken by the Commission at its forty-eighth session. The programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995 was prepared. Several issue papers on energy policies, efficiency and environmental problems, such as global warming, were being prepared for submission to the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development at its first session, to be held in October 1993. Several publications were issued. Operational activities were greatly curtailed as compared with the previous biennium because UNDP had temporarily suspended support for such activities. The activities under the UNDP-funded Regional Energy Development Programme (REDP) that had been carried over from 1991, including several advisory missions, and the Regional Workshop on Sectoral Energy Demand Studies and Energy Scenarios were completed with co-funding from the Government of France. The Asian Institute of Technology was collaborating with ESCAP in implementing the activity on sectoral energy demand studies. Advisory missions were fielded to Cambodia on training for power sector rehabilitation, and to Viet Nam on the use of computers in power system management. A workshop on co-generation was organized by ESCAP in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Energy Conservation Center of Thailand (ECCT), with in-country consultants from India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. TCDC activities were conducted in the following areas: wind energy technology, between China, and Sri Lanka and Viet Nam; and acid rain and emissions, between Thailand and India, Viet Nam, China and the Republic of Korea. A project was implemented on environmentally sound coal utilization, funded by the Government of Australia. Missions were fielded in October 1992 to China, India and Japan to gather information and hold discussions on clean coal technology, and a regional workshop was held in April 1993. The Global Energy Efficiency 21 project, a concerted effort of the United Nations regional commissions to promote the enhancement of energy efficiency, was initiated to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992.

Environment

22. The focus of secretariat activities with regard to the environment was on the achievement of environmentally sound and sustainable development in the region. Activities were designed to address the national priorities in the region while encouraging regional cooperation. A major portion of the programme of work was concerned with activities relating to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In its attempts to integrate the objectives and recommendations of Agenda 21 into its activities, the secretariat was focusing on crucial issues identified in the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, endorsed by the Commission at its forty-seventh session, as well as issues identified by the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development, held at Bangkok in October 1990. The secretariat was also directing attention to the applicability within the region of the provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

23. Under the ESCAP/UNDP project on managing the environmental dimensions of sound and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, regional meetings were held to study the linkages between major groups, such as women and youth, and environmentally sound and sustainable development; to establish, and set priorities for, a regional network of environment and economic policy research institutions to promote activities relating to the integration of environment and development; and to develop models for sustainable development and the application of environmentally sound and sustainable development principles. To provide insight into the sustainability of current policies and programmes, studies were conducted in selected countries with different geographical and economic settings.

24. Under the ESCAP/UNDP project on desertification control, priority was given to national capacity-building and the elaboration of desertification assessment and mapping methodology in the region. A tripartite

review of the project was undertaken and an action plan on desertification to the year 2000 was proposed. A regional working group on the marine environment and oceanographic studies was set up to strengthen the monitoring of the coastal/marine environment. Studies were undertaken to develop guidelines for environmentally sound coastal tourism development. Training on conservation and management of protected areas and critical ecosystems was provided to mid- and high-level officers at a workshop hosted by Malaysia. Activities were undertaken to encourage the development of environmentally sound technologies, including the promotion of clean coal technology, and their efficient planning and management. Public awareness was promoted through publications and the efforts of the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (AFEJ).

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

25. In the area of mineral resources development and management, activities focused on geological resource assessment in selected countries of the region and the future directions of mineral resources development in Asian least developed countries; national mineral development strategies, with special reference to mining codes and related aspects of investment regimes; integration of geoscientific knowledge in land-use planning; and environmental geology applications to sustainable development in urban centres and the new economic zones of the Asian and Pacific region. Regional mineral assessment programmes were continued on important mineral commodities such as epithermal gold mineralization, non-metallic and fertilizer minerals and construction materials.

26. The above activities enabled key mineral sector institutions to improve their capability to assess minerals potential and formulate national policies, strategies and programmes for the development of mineral resources and land use, keeping in view the need to protect the environment and to review mining codes and related legislation and promote foreign investment. The geological and mineral resource assessment publications of ESCAP continued to be in strong demand by the world geological and mining community. The role of ESCAP in the formulation of national mineral policies, new mining legislation and regulations, and negotiations with private mining companies was recognized both regionally and internationally.

27. In the field of marine affairs, attention was directed to the problems of managing and developing coastal zones. The secretariat continued to promote the establishment of a new ocean regime within the framework of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, by assisting member countries in developing an integrated and multisectoral marine policy with special emphasis on the protection of the marine environment to achieve sustainable development.

28. With regard to water resources, a number of activities were implemented that reflected the new interdisciplinary approach of the Commission. The case-study on the assessment of water resources and water demand by user sectors in Thailand, a country starting to face serious seasonal water shortages, was much sought after by government agencies and researchers in Thailand engaged in formulating a comprehensive water management policy for the country. The manual and guidelines for comprehensive flood-loss prevention and management were translated into Chinese and Korean and widely distributed for application. The Workshop on Training Modules for Women, Water Supply and Sanitation, held at Bangkok in September 1992, heightened interest in that subject and would be followed by a series of roving seminars to introduce the modules at the national level in eight countries. Owing to the success of the Regional Workshop on Computer Applications for Groundwater Assessment and Management, held at Bangkok in January 1993, similar workshops would be held for the benefit of other countries. Roving seminars on flood-loss prevention and management, which had proved to be very useful to Typhoon Committee members, were being held in other countries of the region susceptible to flooding. Substantive support was provided to the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones. However, the project on the assessment of forecasting techniques and preparedness measures could not yet be completed owing to the non-availability of resources.

29. Advisory services continued to be provided in the area of water resources development and management and requests for such services were increasing. ESCAP continued to coordinate the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific. The TCDC programme in the field of water resources continued. Interest in the programme was growing and support from the member countries had increased.

30. The second phase of the ESCAP Regional Remote Sensing Programme (RRSP), funded by UNDP, was completed on 30 June 1992. RRSP began to function as an ESCAP regular budget programme activity and all operational activities were continued, including promotional efforts such as the organization of seminars and meetings, short- and long-term training activities, and information exchange. RRSP maintained three regional networks: a national focal points network covering 30 member countries, including 18 member countries of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) of the ESCAP/UNDP Regional Remote Sensing Programme; the Regional Information Service network in 17 countries; and an education and training network in 17 countries. Technical advisory assistance was strengthened through the appointment of a regional adviser on remote sensing and geographic information systems. The activities of RRSP had helped in the updating, as well as the maintenance of a higher

standard in, the application of space remote sensing and geographic information systems for the sustainable development of environmental and natural resources in the ESCAP region.

31. The national focal points network and ICC could not hold an annual meeting in 1992 owing to uncertainties in the funding position of RRSP. However, with funding support provided by the Government of France through the French National Space Agency, the national focal points will meet in May 1993 in Islamabad. The meeting will discuss, deliberate and make recommendations on a theme and strategy, and on the conceptual outlines for the discussions at a ministerial-level meeting to launch a regional space applications programme.

Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development

Agricultural and rural development

32. In its activities on agricultural and rural development, the secretariat continued to place emphasis on the alleviation of rural poverty through agricultural development, integrated rural development and interdivisional, inter-agency and multisectoral activities.

33. The project on the promotion of rural non-farm employment had shown considerable promise for rural poverty alleviation. Its methodology offered self-sustaining employment opportunities to the rural poor who identify viable non-farm activities.

34. The ESCAP/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) project on sustainable agricultural development strategies for the least developed countries was initiated early in 1993 to assist the participating least developed countries in the formulation of macroeconomic development strategies for the sustainable development of agricultural sectors. Phase II of the satellite crop monitoring project had established Drought Early Warning Teams to analyse rainfall data coupled with satellite images.

35. The ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP) continued to provide assistance to its members through training activities, information dissemination and advisory services. National and regional training programmes were carried out in India, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam under the regional fertilizer distribution and marketing assistance programme and the project on environmentally friendly fertilizer use. The regular activities of information collection and dissemination through the Network of Fertilizer Information Systems (NFIS) were continued. Country profiles were published on Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines. Advisory services were provided in areas such as soil sampling in relation to the environment. Two countries, Cambodia and Mongolia, joined the Network and the secretariat continued inter-agency collaboration with FAO and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in the implementation of activities under the regional fertilizer distribution and marketing assistance programme, advisory services on various aspects of the fertilizer sector, and information promotion and dissemination through NFIS.

36. The agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP) continued to collect pesticide index information in the Pacific with assistance from the Government of France. The project on a database on pesticides and the environment, funded by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), was begun in April 1992 to provide information about the effects of pesticides on human and animal health and the environment. ARSAP also continued to implement its regional pesticides publication programme, which was supported by the Government of the Netherlands.

37. The Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific continued to implement the inter-agency programme within the framework of the Interagency Coordinated Plan of Action for Integrated Rural Development in the ESCAP Region. Fieldwork carried out in Bangladesh, Nepal and Viet Nam on employment strategies for the rural poor at the village level, with specific focus on women, gave disadvantaged rural people who had no assets the opportunity to obtain institutional credit, thereby strengthening their ability to generate employment and accumulate capital. In spite of financial constraints, the Interagency Committee decided to continue publication of its newsletter, *Poverty Alleviation Initiatives*. To promote the exchange of information and mutual cooperation among member agencies and developing countries, a compendium of United Nations programmes on rural poverty alleviation was being issued. Close collaboration on activities related to rural poverty alleviation was maintained with member Governments through a network of national liaison officers on integrated rural development.

Human resources development

38. The secretariat's activities had the following objectives: (a) to strengthen national capabilities in promoting a coordinated intersectoral approach to human resources development; (b) to monitor the human resources development situation in the region; (c) to facilitate the exchange among countries of human resources development experience and information; and (d) to promote cooperation between Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector in human resources development.

39. Action was taken to follow up the regional meeting of the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development, held in March 1992. To provide Governments with a conceptual basis for integrated human resources development policy-making and planning, the secretariat published studies on critical human resources development issues. In addition, it issued newsletters and information publications to promote the exchange of national experience in and approaches to human resources development.

40. As mandated by the Commission in its resolution 48/6 of 23 April 1992, the secretariat developed a set of guidelines to assist in the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the implementation at the national level of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region. The guidelines were used by Governments in their preparation of inputs to the secretariat's regional survey on the status of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action.

41. The administration of the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award continued. The theme selected for this year's Award was "Human resources development aspects of drug abuse prevention". The jury met in March 1993 to select the winner of the Award.

42. The secretariat initiated a training project to promote the role of the private sector in human resources development. The project aimed at involving the business sector in skills training programmes to enhance the productivity of the rural poor. Recognizing the useful role that NGOs played in promoting human resources development, the secretariat was preparing a study on fiscal incentives to support the growth and viability of NGOs in the region. The Seminar on the Participation of Women in Politics as an Aspect of Human Resources Development, held at Seoul in November 1992, was attended by over 100 ministers, members of parliament, academics and representatives of women's organizations. The Seminar adopted the Seoul Statement on Empowering Women in Politics, which focused on action required to eliminate discrimination against women and promote their participation in all aspects of political life.

Human settlements

43. In pursuance of resolution 46/2 of 13 June 1990 on urbanization strategies in the ESCAP region — towards environmentally sound and sustainable development and management of urban areas, the secretariat continued to prepare the documentation for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization to be held late in 1993.

44. The ESCAP Task Force on Urbanization Strategies in Asia and the Pacific reviewed the first drafts of the four main chapters of the report on the state of urbanization in the region. Three workshops, on urban economy and productivity, urban environment and urban poverty, were convened in July 1992 to discuss the four chapters and to identify the specific issues of major concern on which documents would be prepared for the consideration of the ministers. The secretariat finalized the drafts of the report on the state of urbanization and the issue papers and organized the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, held at Colombo in March 1993. Recognizing the need to coordinate with other relevant organizations in carrying out activities for the Ministerial Conference, ESCAP organized the Consultative Meeting on Establishing the Inter-organizational Task Force on Urbanization for Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok in September 1992.

45. ESCAP, with the support of UNDP, organized the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), which was currently an independent network of local authorities and NGOs with its secretariat at Yokohama, Japan. CITYNET was dedicated to promoting cooperation and the exchange of know-how in areas of urban management. ESCAP had secured funding support for CITYNET through the UNDP urban management programme for Asia and the Pacific, which included a component to be executed by ESCAP under the project on interregional participatory urban management.

46. In cooperation with the Municipal Corporation of Bandung, and with funds provided by UNDP, ESCAP organized the ESCAP/UNDP/CITYNET Regional Seminar-cum-Study Visit on Solid Waste Management, held at Bandung, Indonesia in July 1992. The Seminar addressed issues on solid waste collection, treatment and disposal, privatization and innovative approaches to solid waste management.

47. A draft report on regional planning practices in six Asian countries was prepared and reviewed by a policy-level seminar. Missions were undertaken to Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam and Ahmedabad, India to discuss the modalities and applied methodological approach for action research in regional planning. A database on research and training activities in human settlements was developed after a questionnaire on research and training in human settlements showed that there was considerable interest in establishing a network of research and training institutions. The information contained in the replies to the questionnaire was analysed and compiled for publication.

48. In the field of housing finance and credit systems, an advisory services mission was fielded to Vientiane at the invitation of the Department of Housing and Town Planning, Ministry of Communications, Transport, Ports and Construction of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. To exchange experience in cost reduction in the production of building materials and construction technology, the Regional Training Course on Applicable Construction Technology and Material was held at Chengdu, China in April 1992.

49. Publications and studies were issued on rural centre planning, housing finance and innovative credit systems, and the promotion of community-managed development projects.

Population

50. The long-term objectives of the subprogramme on population were to promote an integrated approach to population planning within the overall framework of the social and economic development of the region; to assist in the promotion of cooperation and exchange of experience among ESCAP members and associate members in policy and programme formulation and implementation; and to strengthen the capability of Governments to acquire, analyse, disseminate and utilize population data and information in support of policy formulation and programme implementation.

51. A comparative study on the consequences of population change in Asia provided planners, policy makers and researchers in countries of the region with increased knowledge for identifying specific approaches to integrated policy formulation on population and development.

52. Governments of countries in the region were provided with technical assistance in analysing urbanization trends in their countries in relation to socio-economic development policies, the impact of urbanization and the role of women; in increasing their awareness of the implications of population ageing for socio-economic development plans; and in exchanging experience and strategies on issues relating to ageing, by organizing jointly with the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) a workshop on population ageing.

53. Substantial results were achieved in influencing ESCAP members and associate members to formulate population policies and implement family planning programmes. Research on family planning programmes covered the interaction between clients and grass-roots family planning personnel, the knowledge and attitudes of family planning workers about contraceptives, the impact and efficiency of family planning programmes and the accessibility of contraceptive methods, integrated approaches to the promotion of community participation in family planning programmes, and improvement of methodologies for monitoring and evaluating family planning/maternal and child health programmes through improved management information systems.

54. Advisory services, technical support, training courses and workshops, information services and grants were among the information activities enabling national information centres in the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (Asia-Pacific POPIN) to process and disseminate data and information more efficiently in support of population policy formulation and programme implementation. An active publications programme produced periodicals to help in meeting the population information needs of target audiences in the region.

55. TCDC activities were expanded to include training workshops and arrangements for personnel exchange among national population information centres.

Social development

56. The secretariat contributed to national efforts to promote policies and programmes to stimulate greater participation of all sections of society in the development process, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups such as youth, disabled persons and the elderly.

57. With respect to youth, the secretariat contributed to the strengthening of national capabilities to address youth problems and concerns. Meetings were convened on critical issues pertaining to youth in the region, including a Pacific subregional workshop on the training of trainers in rural and urban youth work, a seminar on the effects of new technologies on the working life of young people, and the training of trainers in South Asia in the promotion of functional literacy among girls and young women.

58. With regard to disabled persons, the secretariat was fostering regional support for the implementation of Commission resolution 48/3 of 28 April 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002. An intergovernmental meeting was held to launch the Decade. The preparation of case-studies and technical guidelines on the promotion of non-handicapping environments for disabled and elderly persons was initiated to improve their access to the built environment. To contribute to the strengthening of the self-help movements of disabled persons in the ESCAP region, the secretariat published a directory of self-help organizations of disabled persons and reports on a series of national training workshops.

59. Concerning elderly persons, the secretariat held an expert group meeting and prepared case-studies, with a view to developing policy guidelines on lifelong preparation for old age and on social security in old age.

60. With regard to drug abuse, the secretariat contributed to the development of integrated community-based approaches to drug abuse demand reduction through the collection of baseline information and the organization of pilot planning and training workshops. The secretariat collaborated with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to extend community-based activities to the border area of two countries in the region. Activities were initiated to strengthen a regional network of national focal points on

drug abuse demand reduction. Advisory services were rendered to assist Governments and NGOs in strengthening drug abuse demand reduction activities.

61. In respect of social development policies and planning, the secretariat contributed to national efforts to formulate and implement national policies, plans and programmes aimed at achieving balanced socio-economic development in line with the framework of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond. The secretariat held an expert group meeting to examine and advise on the modalities for the implementation of the Strategy. To enhance collaboration and coordination among concerned United Nations bodies and agencies, an inter-agency task force on the implementation of the Social Development Strategy was established by the secretariat and held its first session. In addition, advisory services were provided in the planning and delivery of social services, the implementation of the Social Development Strategy, and crime prevention and criminal justice. Activities to improve the information base on social development issues in the region included the preparation and dissemination of a publication and newsletters on selected issues in social development.

62. The secretariat initiated preparations for the United Nations Asia and Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family, to be held at Beijing in May 1993.

Women in development

63. The secretariat contributed to national efforts to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, with specific reference to the effective mobilization and integration of women in the development process.

64. The secretariat undertook several activities to promote the integration of women's concerns into development planning, including the publication of background studies on women's concerns and policy recommendations relating to household operations, the market system and the government sector. National capabilities for integrating women's concerns into development planning were strengthened through the provision of advisory services to Governments and NGOs.

65. The secretariat promoted awareness of women's *de jure* and *de facto* legal status, as well as the need for equal rights legislation and its implementation. A series of national workshops on legal literacy were held, followed by campaigns to improve the legal status of women.

66. As part of its efforts to strengthen national, subregional and regional women's information systems, the secretariat organized the Pacific Subregional Workshop on the Technical Processing of Information Concerning Women in Development, held at Suva in May 1992. To promote information exchange on the status of women and the implementation of international conventions, strategies and instruments for the advancement of women, the secretariat issued newsletters and a directory. Advisory services were provided to assist national women's information centres in collecting, analysing, processing and disseminating information on women in development.

67. In preparation for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, to be held in Indonesia in May 1994, the secretariat initiated a number of activities, including a review of the implementation in the ESCAP region of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

68. To enhance the participation of women in the development process in the region, the secretariat continued efforts to integrate women's concerns into all activities of the ESCAP secretariat.

Committee on Transport and Communications

Transport and communications

69. The major achievement of the subprogramme was the formulation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, which was endorsed by the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, held at Bangkok in June 1992. The regional action programme was developed jointly by ESCAP and nine international and intergovernmental organizations in response to the needs of national Governments in the region. It will serve as the basis for formulating programmes of work on transport and communications for the next two bienniums.

70. The secretariat continued efforts to develop computer models and manuals for strengthening national capabilities in transport research and planning, with particular focus on shipping and ports. The maritime policy planning model (MPPM), an extension of the regional maritime strategy study (RMSS), consisted of software forecasting models covering the areas of trade, port assignment, liner shipping and port capacity. The secretariat rendered assistance to a number of national ports in the region in the implementation and validation of the port capacity models. At the regional level, the models were used extensively by the secretariat in research for the publication *Prospects for Container Shipping and Port Development (ASEAN Subregion)*.

71. To develop and strengthen intraregional and interregional transport and communications linkages, in

particular with regard to land transport in Asia, the secretariat intensified its efforts to implement the integrated project on Asian land transport infrastructure development, comprising the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway and the facilitation of land transport projects. It fielded a number of route survey missions to selected countries in the region and fact-finding missions to the newly independent Asian republics, and it provided advisory services on transit transport facilitation to some of the land-locked countries.

72. In support of environmental development, the secretariat issued two publications relating to the environmental impact of dredging and port development. It successfully completed the implementation, in Karachi, Pakistan, of a five-year demonstration project on utilization of compressed natural gas in urban transport through the conversion of diesel buses.

73. The secretariat continued its assistance in national capacity-building for multimodal transport. It introduced national trainers to updated training manuals and teaching-aid materials and provided them with training to enable them to organize future national workshops.

74. Assistance continued to be provided in the development and improvement of information and statistical systems on inland water transport and the upgrading of dredging capabilities.

International trade and development finance

Tourism

75. The secretariat continued to assist developing countries by undertaking policy-oriented studies on ways to derive greater socio-economic benefit from the planned and systematic development of tourism. It made special efforts to improve policies for tourism development, taking into consideration the socio-economic and environmental impact of tourism. Several studies were completed on the impact of tourism on the national economy and the environment. A seminar designed to address tourism development issues in the least developed countries contributed to the identification of major impediments to the sustainable development of tourism. An expert group meeting on environmental management of coastal tourism development was expected to contribute to the strengthening of the capability of Asian and Pacific countries to formulate integrated tourism development policies, with due regard to the environmental impact of tourism. Other important activities included advisory services on tourism promotion and the dissemination of technical information and data on tourism development through the *ESCAP Tourism Review* and the *ESCAP Tourism Newsletter*.

Committee on Statistics

Statistics

76. In the statistics subprogramme the focus of activities continued to be on (a) statistical development; (b) the collection and dissemination of statistical information relating to the countries of the region; and (c) government computerization.

77. In the area of statistical development, the secretariat initiated a project on the development of environment statistics, and its activities in support of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) gained momentum. Technical assistance in strengthening statistical capability was provided to developing countries through advisory services and technical meetings.

78. A total of 17 advisory missions were fielded to developing countries of the region on various aspects of national accounts, the development of specifications for phase VI of ICP, surveys of business and services, demographic surveys, utilization of statistical software packages, and planning, processing and analysing population censuses and surveys. However, the delivery of advisory services declined sharply as compared with past years. In the area of demographic statistics, advisory services were affected by the establishment of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Support Teams (CSTs) at the subregional level. As of January 1993, the three advisory posts attached to the subprogramme and funded by UNFPA were transferred to CSTs. In addition the funding of the regional adviser on energy statistics lapsed and the services of an adviser on household surveys were unavailable.

79. Three technical meetings were held, covering the regional specifications for phase VI of ICP, estimating procedures and techniques as a means of improving the timeliness of data, and environment statistics. The secretariat's joint activities with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) were affected by uncertainties with regard to the phase VI extension of the Institute. A few joint training courses planned for 1992 did not take place. However, as the project document for phase VI was agreed late in 1992, SIAP activities were expected to resume in 1993.

80. The secretariat continued to gather demographic, social, economic and other statistics in the countries of the region and to issue regular statistical publications. It was planning to expand its publications to include coverage of the six Asian republics that had recently become members of the Commission. It would also improve the scope, content and presentation of its publications. In addition, the secretariat continued to develop computerized databases, although such work was proceeding at a slower pace owing to personnel and resource constraints.

81. The lack of extrabudgetary funds hindered in particular the progress of the work on government computerization and utilization of information technology in the public sector. However, efforts continued to be made to formulate project proposals on various aspects of government information systems. The first issue of the semi-annual *Government Computerization Newsletter* was released.

82. Following the restructuring of the intergovernmental subsidiary bodies, the Committee on Statistics held its eighth session at Bangkok in November 1992. Statisticians of the region exchanged views and provided guidance to the secretariat on its future activities, especially on the role of the statistics subprogramme in supporting the work of the secretariat's thematic committees and special bodies.

Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries

Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

83. In support of the least developed countries the secretariat reviewed the progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. In February 1993, the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries held its first session, at which it reviewed development trends, issues and policies in respect of the least developed countries, assessed international cooperative efforts in support of their development, and considered ESCAP activities and the proposed programme of work to meet their special needs. The Meeting expressed concern over the failure to achieve the main targets of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries and urged that greater effort be made to attain the aims of the Programme of Action for the 1990s. It welcomed the economic and political reforms undertaken in the least developed countries and strongly endorsed the initiatives taken towards economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC) in the region to promote the development of least developed countries. The proposed programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995 was also endorsed.

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

Special programme for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

84. The secretariat analysed the economic performance and prospects of the island developing countries, and provided training in project preparation and appraisal techniques. In February 1993 the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries held its first session, at which it reviewed development trends and policies, the Commission's activities and the proposed programme of work in the Pacific. It also took up the question of the substantive contribution from the ESCAP region to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to be held in April 1994. The Special Body noted the wide range of development constraints faced by the island economies and the relatively unfavourable patterns of economic performance in a large number of those economies. It emphasized the importance of international trade and investment for the island economies and recommended the strengthening of finance, investment and trade links between them and the more dynamic economies in the ESCAP region. The Special Body expressed concern over the marked decline in the Commission's activities in the Pacific. It, however, expressed appreciation for the technical assistance activities of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (ESCAR/POC). The Special Body endorsed the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995.

B. Other activities

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

85. The secretariat increased its efforts to promote ECDC/TCDC, implementing over 80 activities. Emphasis was on activities of particular benefit to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. With the generous support of the Governments of China, the Netherlands, Norway and the Republic of Korea to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, the secretariat supported the international cost component of 33 operational TCDC activities, 10 of which were specifically for the benefit of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, which facilitated greater participation of those countries in the TCDC activities supported by the secretariat, member Governments and NGOs. Operational TCDC activity comprised 12 study tours in specific areas of interest to members and associate members, participation in 18 workshops and seminars and visits to and discussion of three demonstration projects to promote further cooperation, including possible joint ventures on specific products, among the participating developing member countries. The fields of interest were agriculture (including fisheries, irrigation, agricultural extension and rural industrialization), natural resources development, industry and human settlements, the environment, population, social development (youth, the disabled and women in development), and science and technology. Implementation of the operational TCDC activities enhanced the awareness of the problems faced by the members and associate members in the region, and the sharing of knowledge and experience therefrom benefited the participating countries.

Energy

86. Staff of the secretariat gave lectures or presentations at a number of meetings organized by agencies and institutions, including the East-West Center, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP), the Oil and Gas Technology Development Centre of Indonesia (LEMIGAS), the International Petroleum Industry Environment and Conservation Association, the Indonesian Institute of Energy Economics, and the Asian and Pacific Energy Planning Network (APENPLAN).

Statistics

87. The transfer of statistical methodology and technical information was facilitated through TCDC. The secretariat organized bilateral visits by officials from countries and areas participating in ICP, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Staff of the secretariat and the United Nations Statistical Division participated in some of the bilateral visits.

88. Study tours were organized for officials of the State Statistical Bureau of China to visit the Department of Energy Affairs of Thailand, and for officials from Maldives to visit ESCAP.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

89. The secretariat maintained close cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development, FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the preparation of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1992*. In cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Development, it undertook macroeconomic modelling and projection activities under the LINK project. It also continued fruitful collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in reviewing the progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and planning joint activities to assist the least developed countries of the ESCAP region. ESCAP/POC, the Forum Secretariat and the South Pacific Commission (SPC) participated actively in secretariat activities in support of the Pacific island developing countries. The secretariat also maintained close collaboration with UNDP in extending assistance to least developed countries.

90. Working closely with the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (later subsumed under the Department of Economic and Social Development), the secretariat contributed to a series of seminars on clean coal technology and channelled the recommendations of the last of those seminars, held at Berlin in May 1992, to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It participated in Global Energy Efficiency 21, a project initiated by ECE. It was collaborating with UNIDO in implementing regional activities to promote mini/micro hydropower. It had worked with the World Bank, ADB and the Forum Secretariat to produce, under the UNDP-funded Pacific Energy Development Programme (PEDP), a 13-volume series on Pacific regional energy assessment, and was currently collaborating in activities with the Pacific Power Association, the self-financing successor to PEDP. In addition, the secretariat cooperated with IAEA by giving lectures at the Regional Training Course on Electric Power System Expansion Planning, held at Lahore, Pakistan, in May 1992, and with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and ECE by providing input to the Interregional Symposium on Gas Development and Market Prospects by the Year 2000, held at Damascus in June 1992.

91. The secretariat strengthened coordination with other bodies, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system by convening two sessions of the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development. At the first session, held at Bangkok in September 1992, discussions centred on the regional implications of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The second, held at Manila in March 1993, discussed the need for information networking, the monitoring of environmentally sound and sustainable development trends, human resources development and the development of environmentally sound and sustainable development indicators to assess the progress in implementing Agenda 21. Through project development, the secretariat maintained strong ties with UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNFPA, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), FAO, WHO, the World Bank, UNIDO and ADB, as well as subregional organizations concerned with the environment.

92. In the mineral sector, coordination and liaison activities were continued with the Department of Economic and Social Development, the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, UNDP, CCOP, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation (IOMAC), and Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre (SEATRADC) through the execution of relevant regional UNDP projects in support of intergovernmental organizations, attendance at annual meetings, presentation of keynote papers at interregional seminars, assistance in the formulation of work plans, programmes and regional

projects, regular consultations on the exploration of mineral deposits in selected countries in the region and the formulation of joint cooperative programmes.

93. In the field of water resources development, coordination with other United Nations programmes was carried out at the regional level through the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP served as the secretariat of the Task Force and maintained liaison on behalf of the Task Force with the Administrative Committee on Coordination Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources. As a result, most of the activities in the field of water resources were carried out in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. Thus ESCAP organized an interregional workshop on the training modules on women, water supply and sanitation in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Development and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and with participation of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), FAO and WHO. The regional workshop on computer applications for groundwater assessment and management was organized by ESCAP with support from the Department of Economic and Social Development. The secretariat maintained close contact and cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), in providing substantive support to the work programmes and annual sessions of the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

94. With regard to remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS), the secretariat worked closely with the Department of Economic and Social Development, the United Nations Outer Space Affairs Division, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), UNDP, FAO and ADB. RRSP was completed and a project on GIS/remote sensing formulated for the fifth UNDP inter-country programme cycle. The secretariat submitted information on ESCAP activities in space applications for incorporation in the Secretary-General's report on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system, which was submitted to the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, held in Paris in October 1992. The secretariat worked closely with the Department of Economic and Social Development and FAO, the associate executing agencies for RRSP. UNCRD was a joint sponsor with ESCAP of the International Space Year: Regional Seminar on Remote Sensing Applications to Tropical Ecosystem Management, held at Khao Yai, Thailand, in June 1992. ESCAP and ADB were joint sponsors of the Seminar on Remote Sensing and GIS Applications to Development, held at Manila in December 1992.

95. The secretariat, in association with ILO and UNESCO, implemented a UNDP-funded project to promote the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

96. In the area of industrial development, the secretariat maintained close cooperation with UNDP, ILO, the World Bank, UNIDO and ADB. Those organizations provided input for major studies undertaken by the secretariat and participated actively in ESCAP-sponsored expert group meetings, training and workshops. ESCAP provided input to UNIDO-sponsored studies. Consultations were held on the joint execution of projects, especially on human resources development, investment promotion and industrial revitalization, diversification and restructuring. Joint activities were organized with the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME). With regard to the transfer of technology to least developed countries, environmentally sound technology assessment, biotechnology, technical consultancy services and patent laws, the secretariat worked closely together with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, UNCTAD, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and UNIDO.

97. In the international trade and tourism sector, the secretariat collaborated with UNDP, UNCTAD and ITC in the conceptualization of the regional programme on trade under the UNDP fifth intercountry programme cycle. In addition, the secretariat continued to cooperate with UNCTAD and GATT in conducting training programmes to promote trade expansion and trade facilitation, and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT in the implementation of activities for trade promotion, including training and trade information.

98. With regard to raw materials and commodities, the secretariat maintained close working relations with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, FAO, UNIDO, the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), the International Jute Organization (IJO), the International Natural Rubber Organization (INRO), the International Pepper Community (IPC), the International Silk Association (ISA) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). In addition, the secretariat cooperated with UNDP in the execution of a programme on economic restructuring and international trade in the area of mineral commodities, as well as intraregional trade prospects and business opportunities in Asia and the Pacific in the 1990s.

99. In the field of tourism, the secretariat maintained close contact and cooperation with ILO, the World Tourism Organization (WTO), ADB, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), the Tourism Council of the South Pacific and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

100. Almost all activities of the population programme were carried out with extrabudgetary support from UNFPA. The secretariat also cooperated with the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development. The secretariat coordinated Asia-Pacific POPIN and collaborated closely with global POPIN at United Nations Headquarters. It was also a member of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections.

101. Inter-agency cooperation was maintained with the population programmes of ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO. The secretariat also cooperated with the regional offices of United Nations specialized agencies located at Bangkok.

102. In the field of social development, close contact and cooperation were maintained with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. In the areas of social development planning, youth, disabled persons, the elderly and drug abuse control, close cooperation and coordination continued with the Department of Economic and Social Development, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), UNDCP, UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO.

103. In the field of statistics, the secretariat maintained close working relations with the United Nations Statistical Division, UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, the World Bank, IMF, WTO and ADB. The secretariat continued to participate in the revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) jointly carried out by various United Nations agencies, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT). Cooperation was also maintained with intergovernmental organizations, such as SPC, various technical assistance agencies outside the United Nations, such as the United States Bureau of the Census and the Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and NGOs and professional and academic institutions, such as the International Statistical Institute, the East-West Center, and the International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics. Secretariat staff served as resource persons for various meetings and other group activities convened by some of these organizations.

104. The Inter-agency Steering Committee on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific was established by the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, held at Bangkok in June 1992. Under the lead role of the secretariat, 14 international and intergovernmental organizations concerned with the development of transport and communications in the region participated in the promotion of inter-agency cooperation for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II of the Decade. In addition to ESCAP, the members were UNCTAD, UNEP, ILO, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the World Bank, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), UNIDO, the ASEAN Committee on Transportation and Communications (COTAC), ADB, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) and the Forum Secretariat. The secretariat, together with UNCTAD, ILO, ICAO, the World Bank, UPU, ITU, IMO and APT, developed a proposal for an inter-agency transport and communications programme for Asia and the Pacific, as a subset of the regional action programme, for consideration for funding under the UNDP fifth intercountry programme cycle. At the project level, cooperation was maintained with UNCTAD in promoting multimodal transport in the region. The secretariat also collaborated with IMO in the implementation of a project on the environmental impact of port development. Close contacts were maintained with ESCWA in relation to the Decade, and with ECE in the implementation of the Asian land transport infrastructure development.

105. Several other organizations had major urban-related programmes in the region, such as the UNDP-funded and UNCHS-executed urban management programme, the UNDP-funded and World Bank-executed metropolitan environment improvement programme, the UNDP-funded Asia-Pacific 2000, and programmes executed by other multilateral and bilateral organizations and NGOs. To coordinate the activities to be undertaken following the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization with those that were ongoing, and to encourage joint activities and identify areas in which the scarce available resources could be utilized most effectively, the secretariat organized the Consultative Meeting on Establishing an Inter-organizational Task Force on Urbanization for Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok in September 1992. The Meeting decided to name the task force the Inter-organizational Task Force on the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization and its Follow-up Activities. The role of the Task Force will be to advise ESCAP on regional activities in urban development and management. It will meet once every six months, or more frequently if required.

106. With regard to women in development, close contact and cooperation were maintained with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. Two inter-agency meetings were held to ensure effective collaboration in the preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, to be held in June 1994.

Annex

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES

A. List of publications

Agricultural and rural development

Agricultural Success Cases for Rural Poverty Alleviation (ST/ESCAP/1135)

Agro-chemicals News in Brief, vol. XV, Nos. 2-4; special issues, October and December 1992

Agro-pesticides: Properties and Functions in Integrated Crop Protection (ST/ESCAP/975)

Calendar of Meetings on Agro-chemicals, vol. 11, Nos. 3 and 4; vol. 12, Nos. 1 and 2

Compendium of United Nations Programmes on Rural Poverty Alleviation (ST/ESCAP/1199)

FADINAP/ARSAP Publications and Paper 1990-1991 (ST/ESCAP/1140)

FADINAP/ARSAP-NFIS Thesaurus of Fertilizer-related Terminology, 3rd ed. (ST/ESCAP/1147)

Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin, April-December 1992; January-March 1993

Poverty Alleviation Initiatives, vol. 2, No.1

RISS (Regional Information Support Service) (monthly), vol. 16, Nos. 5-12; vol. 17, No. 1

Supply, Marketing, Distribution and Use of Fertilizer in Indonesia (ST/ESCAP/1196)

Supply, Marketing, Distribution and Use of Fertilizer in the Philippines (ST/ESCAP/1150)

Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategies in the Pacific Island Least Developed Countries: Issues and Policy Options (ST/ESCAP/1208)

Training Manual on Farm Broadcasting (Khmer-language version) (AD/TMFB)

Development issues and policies

Development Papers, No. 12, *Challenges and Opportunities of Restructuring the Developing ESCAP Economies in the 1990s, with Special Reference to Regional Economic Cooperation* (ST/ESCAP/1099)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1243/Part I)

Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, vol. XLI, No. 1/2, June/December 1990 (ST/ESCAP/1053); vol. XLII, No. 1/2 (ST/ESCAP/1109)

Energy

A Framework for Building Long-term Economic Scenarios (ST/ESCAP/1227)

Economic Load Dispatch and Load Management Technology in the Asian Context (ST/ESCAP/1132)

ESCAP Energy News, vol. IX, No. 1

Sectoral Energy Demand in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (ST/ESCAP/1204)

Sectoral Energy Demand in Myanmar (ST/ESCAP/1205)

Sectoral Energy Demand in the Philippines (ST/ESCAP/1206)

Sectoral Energy Demand in Sri Lanka (ST/ESCAP/1193)

Sectoral Energy Demand in Viet Nam (ST/ESCAP/1207)

Sectoral Energy Demand Studies in Asia: Synthesis Report (ST/ESCAP/1235)

Environment

A Preliminary Study on Environmental Management of Tourism Development in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1048)

Environmental Impact Assessment: Guidelines for Mining Development (ST/ESCAP/1038)

Environmental News Briefing: A Selection from the Region's Press (monthly), vol. 6, Nos. 3-12; vol. 7, Nos. 1 and 2

ESCAP Environment News (quarterly), vol. 9, Nos. 3 and 4; vol. 10, Nos. 1 and 2

Human resources development

ESCAP HRD Newsletter, No. 4

Human Resources Development: Intersectoral Coordination and Other Issues (ST/ESCAP/1156)

Seoul Statement on Empowering Women in Politics (ST/ESCAP/1230)

Socio-cultural Impact of Human Resources Development (ST/ESCAP/1169)

Human settlements

Community-based Settlement Improvement and Management: A Case-Study of the Urban Housing Subprogramme of the Million Houses Programme of Sri Lanka (ST/ESCAP/1112)

Directory of Research and Training Institutes in the Field of Human Settlements (ST/ESCAP/1248)

Guidelines on Community-based Housing Finance and Innovative Credit Systems for Low-income Households (ST/ESCAP/1003)

Innovative Approaches to Municipal Environmental Management (ST/ESCAP/1213)

Network of Research and Training Institutes in the Field of Human Settlements (ST/ESCAP/1258)

Industrial and technological development

Energy Conservation in the Commercial and Domestic Sub-sectors (ST/ESCAP/1148)

Legal Aspects of Transfer of New and Emerging Technologies (Biotechnology) (ST/ESCAP/1111)

Proceedings of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, 23-29 June 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1209)

Promoting International Competitiveness and Efficient Resource Utilization in Manufacturing: Sri Lanka (ST/ESCAP/1136)

Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1182)

Strategies for the Technological Transformation of Selected Asian and Pacific Economies through Regional Cooperation (Report of the Consultative Expert Group Meeting on the Application and Extension of the Technology Atlas) (ST/ESCAP/1149)

Training Manual on Solar Photovoltaic Project Development (ST/ESCAP/1221)

International trade and development finance (excluding tourism)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1243/Part II)

Empirical Study of Trade and Investment within the Asia-Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1184)

Expansion of Trade and Investment among ESCAP Developing Countries within a Regional Framework (ST/ESCAP/1185)

Fostering Regional Monetary Cooperation: the Asian Reserve Bank (ST/ESCAP/1179)

GSP Graduation, International Trade, and Investment in the Asia and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1146)

Mineral Industry Taxation Policies for Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1200)

Mineral Investment Conditions in Selected Countries of the Asia-Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1197)

Mineral Resources Development and the Environment (ST/ESCAP/1192)

Prices of Selected Asia/Pacific Products (monthly), March-December 1992, January 1993

Promotion of International Competitiveness and Export of Manufactured Goods in Asian Countries: A Comparative Study (ST/ESCAP/1224)

The Contribution of Transnational Mining Corporations to the Asia-Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1188)

"TIS QUICK", 92-6 to 92-10

TISNET Trade Information Sheet (fortnightly), Nos. 225-247

Trade Information Sources Data Bank and Index, No. 121

Trade Information Sources Directory, No. 41

Traders' Manual for Asia and the Pacific: New Zealand (ST/ESCAP/1216)

Traders' Manual for Asia and the Pacific: Papua New Guinea (ST/ESCAP/1167)

United States Scheme under the GSP and its Relevance for the Economies in the Asia and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1186)

International trade and development finance (tourism only)

ESCAP Tourism Newsletter, No. 1

ESCAP Tourism Review, No. 8, *Investment and Economic Cooperation in the Tourism Sector in Developing Asian Countries* (ST/ESCAP/1145)

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

Assessment of Water Resources and Water Demand by User Sector in Thailand (ST/ESCAP/1068)

Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing Journal, vol. 5, Nos. 1 and 2

Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region, vol. 8, *Bhutan* (ST/ESCAP/1056)

Epithermal Gold in Asia and the Pacific, Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region, vol. 6 (ST/ESCAP/1023)

Forecasting Preparedness and Other Operational Measures for Water-related Natural Disaster Reduction in Asia and the Pacific, Water Resources Series No. 69 (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/69)

Groundwater Quality and Monitoring in Asia and the Pacific, Water Resources Series No. 70 (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/70)

Natural Disaster Reduction in Asia and the Pacific: Launching the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (ST/ESCAP/1066)

Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems for Development: Proceedings of the Seminar, 2-4 December 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1241)

Remote Sensing for Tropical Ecosystem Management: Proceedings of the Regional Seminar, Khao Yai, Thailand, 14-20 June 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1190)

Remote Sensing Newsletter, vol. 10, Nos. 1-3

Remote Sensing to Combat Natural Disasters: Report of the United Nations/ESCAP/UNDRO Workshop on the Application of Space Techniques to Combat Natural Disasters (ST/ESCAP/1141)

Report of the Regional Seminar on the Application of Remote Sensing Techniques to Land-use Planning and Environmental Surveying (ST/ESCAP/1123)

Review of Mineral Exploration and Development in Selected Countries of the Asia and Pacific Region, 1988-1990 (ST/ESCAP/1118)

Roster of Remote Sensing Scientists and Specialists in the ESCAP Region, 2nd ed., *Supplement* (ST/ESCAP/1130)

Study on Benefits to be Obtained from Rational Coastal Resource Management: Geoscientific Applications (ST/ESCAP/1137)

The Law of the Sea in the South Pacific: A Study on the Integration of Marine Affairs Activities within Government Concerns (ST/ESCAP/1097)

Towards an Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development of Water Resources in Asia and the Pacific, Water Resources Series No. 71 (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/71)

Water Resources Journal, June 1991 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/169); September 1991 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/170); December 1991 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/171)

Wind-powered Water Pumping in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1098)

Population

ESCAP Population Data Sheet (1992 and 1993)

Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin, vol. 4, Nos. 1-4

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 7, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/1158); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/1178); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1194); No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/1215); vol. 8, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/1261)

Asian Population Studies Series: No. 109, *Population Ageing: Review of National Policies and Programmes in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1143); No. 111, *Migration and Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1153); No. 112, *Report of the Pre-conference Seminar on Planning and Implementation of Effective Family Planning/Family Health and Welfare Programmes: Some Lessons from the Asia and Pacific Region (17-21 March 1992, Beijing)* (ST/ESCAP/1166); No. 114, *Report of the Pre-conference Seminar on Migration and Urbanization: Interrelationships with Socio-economic Development and Evolving Policy Issues* (ST/ESCAP/1133); *Family Planning Programmes in Asia and the Pacific: Implications for the 1990s* (ST/ESCAP/1189)

Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development (ST/ESCAP/1195)

Catalogue of ESCAP Population Publications, 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1203)

Population Headliners, Nos. 206-217

Population Research Leads, Nos. 40-42

Report of the Asia-Pacific POPIN TCDC Workshop/Study Tour, Beijing, 8-16 July 1991 (ST/ESCAP/1160)

Report of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (ST/ESCAP/1198)

Social development

Self-help Organizations of Disabled Persons: Reports of Three Pilot National Training Workshops (ST/ESCAP/1159)

Social Development Newsletter, Nos. 26 and 28

Towards a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1170)

Statistics

Foreign Trade Statistics for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1989 (ST/ESCAP/1075)

Government Computerization Newsletter, Nos. 1 and 2

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (quarterly), vol XXII, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/1139); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/1163); vol. XXII, No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1183); vol. XXII, No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/1222)

Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 84-87

Transport and communications

Decade News, Nos. 1 and 2

ESCAP/UNDP Maritime Policy Planning Model: Prospects for Container Shipping and Port Development (ASEAN subregion) (ST/ESCAP/1210)

ESCAP/UNDP Transport Financial/Economic Planning Model, vol. 1, *Container Terminal Module*, 2nd ed.; vol. 3, *Inland Container Depots Module with Transport Options Cost Comparisons* (ST/ESCAP/1240); vol. 4, *Rail Line Rehabilitation, Modernization and Construction Module* (ST/ESCAP/1129)

Guidelines for Maritime Industry Labour Legislation (ST/ESCAP/1069)

Guidelines for the Determination of Standard High and Low Water Levels (ST/ESCAP/1187)

Proceedings of the Regional Seminar on Dredging-Related Hydrographic Surveying, 30 October-3 November 1989, Bangkok (ST/ESCAP/1219)

Proceedings of the Seminar on Rehabilitation and Relocation of Ports, 16-20 September 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1174)

Railway Statistics and Information for Asia and the Pacific, 1987, vol. 2 (ST/ESCAP/919)

Report of the ESCAP/UNCTAD Workshops on Multimodal Transport, Lahore, Pakistan, 5-9 May 1990; Calcutta, India, 14-18 May 1990 (ST/ESCAP/1164)

Report of the Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Maintenance of Locomotives and Rolling Stock, Beijing, China, 8-17 October 1991 (ST/ESCAP/1138)

Report of the Seminar on Energy Conservation and Substitution in the Transport Sector (ST/ESCAP/1142)

Report on Computerized Wagon Control System (ST/ESCAP/1122)

Report on the Fourth Regional Seminar on Maritime Legislation, Pattaya, Thailand, 16-19 December 1991: Rights and Responsibilities of Shippers and Carriers in the Transport of Goods by Sea (ST/ESCAP/1117)

Road Bridge Maintenance: Proceedings of the Seminar-cum-Study Tour, Japan, 24 October-2 November 1990 (ST/ESCAP/1157)

Study on the Determination of Technical Standards for Weights, Dimensions and Safety Devices for Rural Road Transport (ST/ESCAP/1173)

The Environmental Impact of Dredging: Study of Problems and Solutions, vol. I (ST/ESCAP/1151)

Transport and Communications Bulletin, No. 62 (ST/ESCAP/SER.E/62)

Women in development

Integration of Women's Concerns into Development Planning in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1233)

WINAP Newsletter, Nos. 10 and 11

B. List of meetings

Agricultural and rural development

Expert Group Meeting on a Centre on Rural Enterprises, Beijing, 13-15 May 1992

Ninth Meeting of the CIRDAP Technical Committee, Dhaka, 1 and 2 July 1992

National Fertilizer Sector Development in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, 20-24 July 1992

Meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 26 August 1992

FADINAP Regional Seminar on Fertilization and the Environment, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 7-11 September 1992

FADINAP Regional Training Course on NPK Production, Cha-am, Thailand, 1-6 November 1992

FADINAP/NFIS Regional Training Workshop on Information Services of a National Participating Centre, New Delhi, 9-13 November 1992

IFA/FADINAP Regional Fertilizer Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Bali, Indonesia, 29 November-3 December 1992

Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific, tenth session, Bogor, Indonesia, 2-4 December 1992

Governing Board of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific, eleventh session, Bogor, Indonesia, 12-14 January 1993

Development issues and policies

Regional Seminar on Social Costs of Economic Restructuring, Bangkok, 12-15 May 1992

Seminar on the Promotion of Domestic Resource Mobilization through Postal Savings, Nagoya, Japan, 2-5 June 1992

Seminar on Medium-term Development Planning Techniques in Selected ESCAP Developing Countries, Kathmandu, 9-12 June 1992

Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, first meeting, New Delhi, 24-27 November 1992

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, 2-4 December 1992

Energy

Joint ESCAP/GTZ Workshop on the Legal Framework for Co-generation of Electricity and Process Heat, Bangkok, 30 June-2 July 1992

Regional Workshop on Environmentally Sound Coal Technologies, Bangkok, 7-10 April 1993

Environment

ESCAP/UNDP/World Bank/UNEP/World Wildlife Fund-US Second Regional Training Workshop for Mid- and High-level Officials on Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in Asia and the Pacific, Kinabalu Park, Sabah, Malaysia, 20 May-2 June 1992

ESCAP/UNDP Consultative Policy Meeting on the Regional Network of Environment and Economic Policy Research Institutions on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, Bangkok, 13-16 July 1992

Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, third meeting, Bangkok, 8 September 1992

Meeting on the Regional Working Group on Marine Environment and Oceanographic Studies, Guangzhou, China, 28 September-3 October 1992

ESCAP/UNDP Regional Meeting on Youth and the Environment, Cha-am, Thailand, 14-17 October 1992

ESCAP/UNDP Regional Meeting on the Role of Women in the Promotion of Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Rayong, Thailand, 27-30 October 1992

ESCAP/UNEP/ACSAD (Arab Center for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands) Expert Group Meeting on Elaboration of Desertification Assessment Mapping Methodology, Tehran, 15-19 November 1992

Workshop to Consider Models for Sustainable Development and Application of Environmental Development Principles, Bangkok, 25-27 November 1992

Expert Group Meeting on Appropriate Methodologies for Hazardous Waste Management in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 1-4 December 1992

ESCAP/UNDP Consultative Meeting on Models for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, Bangkok, 8-10 December 1992

Meeting of the Working Group of the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 1-3 February 1993

Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, Seoul, 8-11 February 1993

ESCAP/UNDP High-level Meeting on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, 15-19 February 1993

Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Management of Coastal Tourism Development, Bali, Indonesia, 8-12 March 1993

Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, fourth meeting, Manila, 15 and 16 March 1993

Second Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change, Bangkok, 29-31 March 1993

Regional Workshop on Environmentally Sound Coal Technologies, Bangkok, 7-10 April 1993

Human settlements

Policy-level Seminar on Subnational Area Planning through Action-oriented Research, Bangkok, 15-18 June 1992

Workshop on Urban Economy and Productivity, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 6 and 7 July 1992

Workshop on Urban Environment, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 8 and 9 July 1992

Workshop on Urban Poverty, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 10 and 11 July 1992

ESCAP/UNDP/CITYNET Regional Seminar-cum-Study Visit on Solid Waste Management, Bandung, Indonesia, 20-23 July 1992

International Seminar on Rural Centre and Settlements Planning, Tehran, 28 July-4 August 1992

Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Urbanization, Colombo, 30 March-1 April 1993

Industrial and technological development

Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology: Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials, Tehran, 23-25 June 1992

Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, Tehran, 28 and 29 June 1992

Workshop on the Identification and Formulation of Intercountry Projects in the Field of Biotechnology, Taejon, Republic of Korea, 14-18 September 1992

Training Workshop on Industrial Projects Preparation and Management for Least Developed and Island Developing Countries of the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, 14-26 September 1992

ESCAP/KRISS (Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science) Workshop on the Role of the National Standards System in Industrial Development, Taedok Science Town, Taejon, Republic of Korea, 6-18 October 1992

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, first session, Bangkok, 19 October 1992

ESCAP/UNIDO Regional Workshop on Agro- and Food-Processing Industries in Asian and Pacific Least Developed Countries, Bangkok, 24-27 November 1992

Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, first meeting, New Delhi, 24-27 November 1992

Expert Group Meeting on Patent Laws, Regulations and Organizational Structure, Yousung, Taejon, Republic of Korea, 25-27 November 1992

Governing Board of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, seventh session, New Delhi, 27 and 28 November 1992

Training Workshop on Industrial Projects Preparation and Management for Private Sector Representatives from Selected Least Developed, Island Developing and Transitional Disadvantaged Economies of the Asian and Pacific Region, Bangkok, 8-15 December 1992

Regional Training Workshop on the Application and Extension of the Technology Atlas, Bangkok, 14-18 December 1992

National Seminar on Private Sector Growth, Technology Choice and Investment in the Industrial Development of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 23-25 January 1993

Regional Seminar on Investment Promotion and Enhancement of the Role of the Private Sector in Asia and the Pacific, Dhaka, 26-30 January 1993

Human resources development

Meeting of the Jury for the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award, Bangkok, 10 and 11 March 1993

International trade and development finance

Workshop on Marketing, Export Promotion and Industrial Cooperation in Leather and Leather Products, Bad Bergzabern, Germany, 1-5 June 1992

Regional Symposium on Trade and International Competitiveness in Manufactured Goods, Bombay, India, 3-5 June 1992

Import Fair Berlin 1992 "Partners for Progress", Berlin, 10-13 June 1992

Buyers/Sellers Seminar on Leather Export Promotion, Berlin, 11 June 1992

ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP Expert Group Meeting on a Regional Investment Information and Promotion Service for Asia and the Pacific, Seoul, 23-25 June 1992

Workshop on a Mineral Database Information System for the ESCAP Region, Colombo, 27-30 June 1992

Expert Group Meeting on Silkworm Rearing and Breeding Techniques, Bao Loc, Viet Nam, 13-17 July 1992

Workshop on International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions, Qingdao, China, 13-17 July 1992

Regional Symposium on Trade and International Competitiveness in Manufactured Goods, Bombay, India, 29-31 July 1992

Seminar on Comparative Analysis Taxation Policies on Minerals and Metal Industries within the ESCAP Region, Guangzhou, China, 10-14 August 1992

Intercountry Consultation on Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region, New Delhi, 11 and 12 August 1992

Regional Seminar-cum-Commencement Meeting (for National Workshops) on the Expansion of Business Opportunities in the Asian and Pacific Region, Bangkok, 1-3 September 1992

Asian International Silk Fair'92, Dusseldorf, Germany, 6-9 September 1992

Seminar on Silk Promotion, Dusseldorf, Germany, 7 September 1992

Steering Committee for the Asian International Silk Fair'92, second session, Dusseldorf, Germany, 8 September 1992

Training Course on Minerals and Metals Trading, Kuala Lumpur, 22 September-2 October 1992

Regional Workshop on Market Development and Export Expansion of Horticultural Products in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, 29 September-2 October 1992

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, first session, Bangkok, 19 October 1992

Mobile Seminar on Trade Information, Investment and International Market in Selected Provinces, Jianxi, Hainan, China, 25 October-10 November 1992

Expert Group Meeting on Post-Cocoon Operations, Manila, 26-29 October 1991

Seminar on the Promotion of Sustainable Tourism Development in the Least Developed Countries of the ESCAP Region, Pattaya, Thailand, 26-30 October 1992

Regional Consultative Group on Silk, sixth session, Manila, 30 and 31 October 1992

Training Course on Negotiating Mineral Industry Agreements and Contracts, Pattaya, Thailand, 2-13 November 1992

National Workshop on the Expansion of Trade and the Promotion of Business Opportunities in the Asian and Pacific Region, Seoul, 10 and 11 November 1992; New Delhi, 30 November 1992; Bangkok, 21 December 1992; Dhaka, 23 December 1992

Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, first meeting, New Delhi, 24-27 November 1992

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, 2-4 December 1992

Workshop on a Regional Network of Research Institutions for the Promotion of Intraregional Trade Research, Bangkok, 3 and 4 December 1992

Training Course on Export Promotion Techniques for Officials of the Trade Promotion Organizations, Hong Kong, 7-18 December 1992

National Seminar on the Generalized System of Preferences of Japan for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vientiane, 1-3 March 1993

Asia-Pacific Consultative Forum on Coffee, first session, Bangkok, 17 and 18 March 1993

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, second session, Bangkok, 19 and 20 April 1993

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, twenty-ninth session, Bangkok, 15 May 1992

ESCAP/CCOP/LEMIGAS Seminar on Removal and Disposal of Obsolete Offshore Installations and Structures in the Exclusive Economic Zone and on the Continental Shelf, Jakarta, 25-28 May 1992

International Space Year: Regional Seminar on Remote Sensing Applications to Tropical Ecosystem Management (in cooperation with the Governments of Japan and Thailand), Khao Yai, Thailand, 14-20 June 1992

Seminar on Future Directions in Mineral Resources Development in Least Developed Countries, Bangkok, 29 June-1 July 1992

Workshop on a Mineral Information Database System for the ESCAP Region and Installation of Four Country Databases, Colombo, 20-25 July 1992

Workshop-cum-Study Tour on Industrial Minerals Development, Nagoya, Japan, 27 August-2 September 1992

Workshop on Testing the Training Modules on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation, Bangkok, 21-25 September 1992

Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, thirtieth session, Bangkok, 19 November 1992

ESCAP/ADB Seminar on Remote Sensing and GIS Applications to Development, Manila, 2-4 December 1992

WMO/ESCAP Typhoon Committee, twenty-fifth session, Zhuhai, China, 8-12 December 1992

Regional Workshop on Computer Applications for Groundwater Assessment and Management, Bangkok, 19-28 January 1993

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, twentieth session, Karachi, Pakistan, 16-22 February 1993

Regional Seminar on Water Management in Urban Areas, Bangkok, 22-26 March 1993

Population

Training on Management, Analysis and Synthesis of Population Data and Information, Bangkok, 4-15 May 1992

Expert Group Meeting on Population Change, Women's Role and Status, and Development, Bangkok, 12-15 May 1992

Study Programme on Technology and Management of Population Data Processing Services, Hong Kong, 15 June-3 July 1992

Preparatory Committee for Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, third session, Bali, Indonesia, 16-18 August 1992

Asia-Pacific POPIN Consultative Workshop, Bali, Indonesia, 16-18 August 1992

Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference: Meeting of Senior Officials, Bali, Indonesia, 19-24 August 1992

Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference: Meeting of Ministers, Bali, Indonesia, 26 and 27 August 1992

Expert Group Meeting on Local-level Policy Development for Dealing with the Consequences of Population Ageing, Pune, India, 1-4 September 1992

ESCAP/UNFPA/JOICFP Regional Preparatory Meeting on Promotion of Awareness and Policy Formulation on Ageing, Bangkok, 1 and 2 October 1992

Expert Group Meeting on Trends, Patterns and Implications of Rural-Urban Migration, Bangkok, 3-6 November 1992

Social development

Pacific Subregional Workshop on the Training of Trainers in Rural and Urban Youth Work, Honiara, 5-19 July 1992

Expert Group Meeting on a Survey of the Quality of Life in the ESCAP Region, Seoul, 11-15 August 1992; Bangkok, 26-30 October 1992

Sixth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Inter-organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns, Bangkok, 1 September 1992

Community-level Training Course on the Development of Integrated Community-based Approaches to Drug Abuse Demand Reduction, Manila, 2-6 September 1992; Kandhala, India, 18-24 September 1992; Bangkok, 26-30 October 1992; Manila, 4-8 November 1992

Meeting to Design Country Studies on Policies and Programmes Concerning the Integration of Elderly Persons in Development, Bangkok, 29 September-2 October 1992

Seminar on the Effects of New Technologies on the Working Life of Young People, Zhuhai, China, 20-24 October 1992

South Asian Training-of-Trainers Workshop for the Promotion of Functional Literacy Among Girls and Young Women, Islamabad, 1-19 November 1992

Meeting to Launch the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, Beijing, 1-5 December 1992

Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, Bangkok, 8-11 December 1992

Interagency Task Force Meeting on Implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, Bangkok, 14 December 1992

Senior Officials Meeting on Strengthening of the Regional Network of National Focal Points on Drug Abuse Demand Reduction, Bangkok, 1-4 February 1993

ESCAP/SHIA Conference of Deaf People in Asia, Bangkok, 9-12 March 1993

Seventh Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Inter-organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns, Bangkok, 29 March 1993

Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

Expert Group Meeting on Economic Performance and Prospects of Pacific Island Economies in the 1990s (Phase I), Port Vila, 14-17 September 1992

Second Training Course on Development Project Preparation and Appraisal Techniques, Port Vila, 16-27 November 1992

Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, first session, Bangkok, 22-24 February 1993

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, first session, Bangkok, 25-27 February 1993

Statistics

Workshop on the Development and Improvement of Environment Statistics, Kathmandu, 31 May-4 June 1992

Workshop on ESCAP Regional Specifications for Phase VI of the International Comparison Programme, Beijing, 21-25 September 1992

Seminar on the Development of Statistical Estimating Procedures and Techniques as a Means of Improving the Timeliness of Data, Bangkok, 26-30 October 1992

Committee on Statistics, eighth session, Bangkok, 16-20 November 1992

Expert Group Meeting on Environment Statistics, Bangkok, 9-12 March 1993

Transport and communications

Country-level Workshop on Development and Improvement of Information and Statistical Systems on Inland Water Transport, Sibu, Malaysia, 4-8 May 1992

ESCAP/UNDP Country-level Workshop on Electronic Data Interchange, Kuala Lumpur, 5-8 May 1992; Colombo, 11-13 May 1992; Bombay, India, 9 and 10 November 1992; Madras, India, 11 and 12 November 1992; New Delhi, 13 and 14 November 1992

Subregional Seminar on Performance Improvement of Inter-island Shipping, Suva, 12-15 May 1992

Meeting of Senior Government Officials in Preparation for the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, Bangkok, 1 and 2 June 1992

Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, second session, Bangkok, 3-5 June 1992

Country-level Training of Trainers on PORTMIS, Suva, 22-26 June 1992; Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 20-24 July 1992; Sibu, Malaysia, 3-7 August 1992; Karachi, Pakistan, 17-22 October 1992

Country-level Workshop on Implementation of the Regional Maritime Strategy Study, Jakarta, 27 June-3 July 1992; Madras, India, 28-30 September 1992; Bombay, India, 1-3 October 1992

Country-level Workshop on the Rail Line Rehabilitation, Modernization and Construction Module, Hanoi, 17-21 August 1992; Tianjin, China, 7-11 September 1992; Ulaanbaatar, 14-19 September 1992

ESCAP/UNCTAD Country-level Workshop on Multimodal Transport, Bangkok, 24-28 August 1992; Manila, 23-25 November 1992; Dhaka, 7-12 December 1992; Hong Kong, 8-10 February 1993; Karachi, Pakistan, 14-16 February 1993

IMO/ESCAP Seminar on Environmentally Sound Port Development and Management, Yokohama, Japan, 31 August-4 September 1992

Country-level Workshop on Maritime Policy Planning Model, Calcutta, India, 7-9 October 1992; Beijing, 26-31 October 1992

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Commercial Aspects of Railway Modernization, Tokyo, Sendai and Hokodate, Japan, 20-27 October 1992

Country-level Seminar on Strategic Port Pricing and ESCAP/UNDP Model Port Tariff Structure, Calcutta, India, 30 November-4 December 1992

Study Tour to Advanced CNG (compressed natural gas) Facilities in New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand, 30 November-4 December 1992

Meeting of the Inter-agency Steering Committee on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, Geneva, 2-4 December 1992

Regional Seminar on Strategic Port Pricing and the ESCAP/UNDP Model Port Tariff Structure, Bangkok, 8-12 December 1992

Regional Seminar on the Inland Container Depot Financial/Economic Planning Model, Bangkok, 14-18 December 1992

Regional Training Seminar on Utilization of Compressed Natural Gas in Urban Transport through the Conversion of Diesel Buses to CNG, Karachi, Pakistan, 27-29 December 1992

Regional Expert Group Meeting on Utilization of Compressed Natural Gas in Urban Transport, Karachi, Pakistan, 30 and 31 December 1992

ESCAP/UNCTAD Review Seminar on Multimodal Transport, Karachi, Pakistan, 18 February 1993

Country-level Workshop on the ESCAP/UNDP Transport Financial/Economic Planning Model: Container Terminal Module, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 22-26 February 1993

Women in development

Pacific Subregional Workshop on the Technical Processing of Information Concerning Women in Development, Suva, 4-15 May 1992

National Legal Literacy Workshop, Kuala Lumpur, 5 and 6 September 1992

Inter-agency Meeting on Preparations for the Regional Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, Bangkok, 10 September 1992

C. List of advisory and other services

Agricultural and rural development

(a) Brunei Darussalam, on the establishment of the database on pesticides and the environment;

(b) Cambodia, to study the economic environment of fertilizer aid-in-kind deliveries;

(c) Indonesia, on environmental issues in the fertilizer sector;

(d) Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore, on the establishment of the database on pesticides and the environment;

(e) Myanmar, on the results of the soil-testing subcomponent, particularly with regard to the low levels of phosphorous in soil samples.

Development issues and policies

(a) Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, on an ESCAP/ADB fact-finding mission, with regard to (i) particular issues requiring urgent attention, and (ii) macroeconomic issues and plans;

(b) Kiribati, to act as liaison with the Government on development issues and technical assistance needs;

(c) Tonga, to evaluate technical assistance requirements and activities for strengthening the Central Planning Department and instituting a strategic planning approach;

(d) Viet Nam, (i) on macroeconomic reforms, foreign investment, and development assistance, and (ii) to conduct seminars on economic stabilization and management of infrastructure.

Energy

(a) Federated States of Micronesia, on energy strategy and energy supply;

(b) Islamic Republic of Iran, on energy conservation strategy and energy supply;

(c) Mongolia, on the energy situation and energy policy;

(d) Myanmar, on energy conservation and environmental issues;

(e) Philippines, on global warming;

(f) Republic of Korea, on environmental issues of energy technology;

(g) Tonga (twice), on energy legislation;

(h) Viet Nam, to assist in setting up a computer management information system.

Human resources development

Republic of Korea, to assist in the organization of a seminar on the participation of women in politics as an aspect of human resources development.

Industrial and technological development

(a) Islamic Republic of Iran, to organize a symposium on the transfer of technology for vocational training;

(b) Nepal, on hydrogen technology;

(c) Republic of Korea, on regional cooperation in standardization, metrology and quality control.

International trade and development finance (excluding tourism)

(a) Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, on particular issues requiring urgent attention;

(b) Bangladesh, (i) to lecture in a national workshop on the promotion and financing of joint ventures, on opportunities and constraints in regional trade and investment, and on regional cooperation, (ii) to review the export scenario and potential for selected items of export interest to Bangladesh, and (iii) to identify target markets and evaluate measures for product development;

(c) Bangladesh and Republic of Korea, to organize and participate in the National Workshop on the Expansion of Business Opportunities in the Asian and Pacific Region;

(d) Bhutan, (i) on framing trade policy after the liberalization measures taken by India and the imposition of a duty by Bangladesh on exports from Bhutan, and (ii) on intellectual property rights, patents and trademarks;

(e) China, (i) on the Asian International Silk Fair'92, and (ii) to provide advice to the China International Trade Research and Training Centre for the Asian and Pacific Region;

(f) Germany, on export promotion;

(g) India, (i) to service intercountry consultations on trade, and (ii) to advise on export penetration into Japan;

(h) Lao People's Democratic Republic, on the scope and nature of the Multifibre Arrangement and the generalized system of preferences;

(i) Mongolia, (i) on designing documents in line with the United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents, and (ii) to participate in a national workshop on export promotion and trade facilitation;

(j) Nepal, to participate in the discussions at the 20th Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Asian Clearing Union;

(k) Samoa and Tonga, on the formulation of appropriate foreign investment policies.

International trade and development finance (tourism only)

(a) Nepal, on the marketing and promotion of tourism to Nepal, with emphasis on the Japanese travel market;

(b) Pakistan, on tourism development.

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

(a) Bangladesh and Nepal, to assist in identifying follow-up actions to be taken on the assessment and sustainable development of water resources;

(b) Bhutan, (i) on geological and mineralogical aspects of the development of non-metallic industrial mineral resources, and (ii) on the formulation of a project on mineral resources development, the installation of computer hardware, and the conduct of a national training course on the use of a mineral information database system;

(c) Cambodia, (i) to assist in the management of sustainable exploration of natural resources, (ii) in support of the Technical Committee on the Management and Exploitation of Natural Resources, (iii) on flood forecasting and damage reduction (basin-wide) for the Interim Mekong Committee, and (iv) to prepare a field research study, detailed mapping and sampling of ore bodies, as well as long/medium-term mine plans of rock phosphate deposits;

(d) China, to review mining legislation and regulations relating to mineral resources development;

(e) Hong Kong, Malaysia and Republic of Korea, on remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS);

(f) Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar and Pakistan, to conduct a roving seminar on flood-loss prevention and management;

(g) Malaysia, on a safety surveillance programme for hydraulic structures;

(h) Mongolia, (i) on remote sensing and GIS, and (ii) on the presentation of annual data on water resources and uses;

(i) Philippines, (i) to provide advisory services in connection with the fifth ASEAN Remote Sensing Expert Group Meeting, and (ii) to advise government agencies on preparatory matters relating to the ESCAP/ADB Seminar on Remote Sensing;

(j) Sri Lanka, on the National Water Master Plan;

(k) Vanuatu, on Sarakata flood protection, land erosion of the banks of the Sarakata River and sea-front redevelopment;

(l) Viet Nam, on emergency preparedness and disaster management.

Population

(a) Bangladesh, (i) on developing a management information system (MIS) proposal and a review survey, and (ii) to assist in analysing the data of the pilot comprehensive health survey of morbidity and health status;

(b) China, to assist in preparing a project document on training courses for population information professionals on information and population topics;

(c) Fiji, to review and finalize a UNFPA cooperation programme on population and development;

(d) Fiji and Vanuatu, (i) to review the population programme of the University of the South Pacific, and (ii) on the country review exercise on population and planning;

(e) India, (i) to finalize the POPIN Network project, (ii) to revise the IMSEAR database format to make it compatible with the WHOBIS standard format, and (iii) to participate in a workshop on CDS-ISIS and MeSH;

(f) Lao People's Democratic Republic, on the preparation of and participation in a seminar on population and its effects on socio-economic development and the environment;

(g) Nepal, to analyse demographic and health survey data;

(h) Solomon Islands, to assist in programme formulation and project development.

Social development

(a) Brunei Darussalam, (i) on youth crime prevention policies and programmes, (ii) to conduct a workshop on the enhancement of community services for community and social workers, (iii) to promote the participation of elderly persons in development, and (iv) to formulate a national programme for the aged and a plan of action for the next 10 years;

(b) China, on the implementation of a community-level training course for drug abuse prevention personnel;

(c) Federated States of Micronesia, on the feasibility of establishing, within the government structure, a coordinating mechanism for women's development programmes;

(d) India, to plan a workshop to train trainers of community-level drug abuse prevention personnel;

(e) Kiribati and Marshall Islands, on a range of social issues, including the strengthening of country action programmes in support of the Regional Social Development Strategy Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond;

(f) Maldives, on social development issues for the Ministry of Atolls Administration;

(g) Pakistan, to prepare a workshop on the training of trainers in the promotion of functional literacy among girls and young women;

(h) Solomon Islands, to assist in the convening of a Pacific subregional workshop on the training of trainers in urban and rural youth work;

(i) Sri Lanka, (i) to promote the participation of elderly persons in development, and (ii) to devise a policy framework and strategy in line with the Regional Social Development Strategy Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond;

(j) Thailand, (i) on the planning of a national training course on an integrated community-based approach to drug abuse demand reduction, (ii) to assist in setting up a juvenile delinquents' rehabilitation centre, (iii) on youth crime prevention policies and programmes, (iv) to assist in revising the provisions for safety measures in the Penal Code of Thailand, (v) on the development of services for elderly persons, and (vi) on human resources, community planning and self-help training programmes for youth;

(k) Vanuatu, on the formulation of policies on youth, women and community development.

Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

(a) Fiji, to follow up with the Suva Engineering Department on car parking requirements;

(b) Guam, to observe and discuss issues relating to infrastructure development, physical planning and tourism, and preparation of landscape development regulations for Agana;

(c) Niue, to discuss and identify needs relating to physical planning and future development assistance;

(d) Samoa, to identify and assess needs and future technical assistance;

(e) Tuvalu, to prepare for the Tuvalu National Council the final designs and drawings of a women's centre.

Statistics

(a) Azerbaijan, to assist the State Committee for Statistics in the introduction of the System of National Accounts;

(b) Bhutan, on various aspects of statistics and government computerization;

(c) Brunei Darussalam, to advise and assist the Economic Planning Unit in developing a suitable methodology for estimation of gross domestic product (GDP) in various sectors;

(d) China, (i) to discuss, with the Municipal Statistical Bureau of Shanghai, ICP matters and the bilateral comparison between Japan and Shanghai, (ii) to participate in the Workshop on Regional Specifications, and (iii) to assist the China Population Information and Research Centre in the utilization of statistical software packages;

(e) Hong Kong, to assist in the analysis of the 1991 population census;

(f) India, to advise on the selection of representative specifications and their links to expenditure on GDP, as well as on the comparability of expenditure classifications;

(g) Maldives, (i) to assist in the second stage of the survey of business undertakings, and (ii) to scrutinize the completed budget analysis for 1989;

(h) Nepal, (i) to review the state of the national accounts, and (ii) to assist the Central Bureau of Statistics in strengthening the national accounts system;

(i) Niue, to assist in the processing and analysis of census data;

(j) Papua New Guinea, to assist in the evaluation of the 1990 census and plans for analysis;

(k) Samoa, to assist in census editing, tabulation and other aspects of processing;

(l) Tonga, to assist in the planning of a demographic survey and the development of a strategy for the 1995 census;

(m) Viet Nam, (i) to assist in the preparation of a project for a multi-round survey and an intercensal survey programme in demographic statistics, and (ii) to prepare a project document for an intercensal survey.

Transport and communications

(a) Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, on particular issues requiring urgent attention, and on the identification of specific areas in which assistance is required;

(b) Cambodia, (i) on port development management, (ii) on the application of software programs to inland container depots, and (iii) on dredging;

(c) China, on promotion of interregional and intraregional transport linkages;

(d) Cook Islands and Tonga, to install the port computer-aided management (PortCAM) software program and provide demonstrations and training;

(e) India, on low-cost dredging techniques for relevant ports and harbours;

(f) Indonesia, on the implementation of the maritime policy planning model/regional maritime strategy study;

(g) Lao People's Democratic Republic, to improve the management, documentation and organization of transport in support of the country's international trade;

(h) Malaysia, on PORTMIS, to review the management information system of the Sabah Ports Authority, and the Rajah Port Authority;

(i) Mongolia, (i) on promotion of interregional and intraregional transport linkages, and (ii) on transport transit agreements;

(j) Papua New Guinea, on PORTMIS, to review the management information system;

(k) Samoa, to assess additional technical assistance required for port computerization;

(l) Thailand, on dredging operations and contract supervision;

(m) Tokelau, (i) on construction of seawalls, and (ii) to review ongoing shore protection works and provide advice on future works and their environmental impact;

(n) Turkmenistan, on transport transit agreements;

(o) Vanuatu, to collect data and assess government resources required for the implementation of port computerization;

(p) Viet Nam, on the promotion of interregional and intraregional transport linkages.

Women in development

(a) Fiji, Islamic Republic of Iran, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa and Vanuatu, on the integration of women's concerns into development planning;

(b) Indonesia and Malaysia, on the maintenance of a women-in-development (WID) thesaurus and the development of WID databases;

(c) Islamic Republic of Iran, to review the information system on women and develop a plan for the establishment of a national women's information system;

(d) Papua New Guinea, on the promotion of legal awareness among women.

Chapter III

FORTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

107. The forty-ninth session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, from 21 to 29 April 1993.

108. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Guam, Hong Kong, Macau, New Caledonia and Republic of Palau.

109. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Israel and Sweden attended. Representatives of the Holy See also attended under Economic and Social Council decision 244 (LXIII).

110. The session was also attended by officials of the United Nations secretariat, representing the Department of Economic and Social Development and the Regional Commissions New York Office.

111. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and World Food Programme.

112. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, International Maritime Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

113. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Asian Productivity Organization, Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Commission of the European Communities, Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas, Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Colombo Plan Bureau, Commonwealth Secretariat, Forum Secretariat, International Jute Organization, Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, International Organization for Migration, International Pepper Community, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, South Pacific Commission, and Typhoon Committee.

114. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in category I: International Co-operative Alliance, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Organization for Standardization, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Union of Local Authorities, World Confederation of Labour, World Federation of Democratic Youth, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Muslim Congress, World Veterans Federation and Zonta International; and from the following organizations in category II: Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, Baha'i International Community, Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association, World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises and World Conference on Religion and Peace.

115. Representatives of Asia and Pacific Association of Schools of Social Work, Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements, World Association of the Major Metropolises, Pioneer Development Foundation for Asia and the Pacific, and Participatory Research, Organization of Communities, and Education towards Struggle for Self-reliance also attended.

116. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP(XLIX)/INF.2/Rev.1.

117. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the Commission at its 740th meeting elected HE Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri (Thailand) Chairperson.

118. Following the past practice of the Commission and after informal consultations, the Chairperson proposed and the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegation Vice-Chairpersons: HE Dr Mohayuddin Mehdi (Afghanistan), HE Mr Gordon Bilney, MP (Australia), HE Mr A.M. Zahiruddin Khan (Bangladesh), HE Dato Haji Ahmad Wally Skinner (Brunei Darussalam), HE Mr Qian Qichen (China), HE Mr Pranab Mukherjee (India), HE Mr Wisber Loeis (Indonesia), HE Mr Mohammad Tabibian (Islamic Republic of Iran), HE Mr Koji Kakizawa (Japan), HE Mr Aimanov Adilbek (Kazakhstan), Hon Taomati T. Iuta (Kiribati), HE Mr Soubanh Srithirath (Lao People's Democratic Republic), HE Dato Syed Hamid Bin Syed Jaafar Albar (Malaysia), HE Mr Hasan Sobir (Maldives), Hon Dr Ram Sharan Mahat (Nepal), HE Ms Lina B. Laigo (Philippines), HE Mr Han Sung-Joo (Republic of Korea), HE Mr Serguei V. Lavrov (Russian Federation), HE Dr Ker Sin Tze (Singapore), Hon Job Duddley Tausinga MP (Solomon Islands), HE Mr Surin Pitsuwan (Thailand), Hon Cecil J. Cocker (Tonga), Hon Ionatana Ionatana (Tuvalu), Hon Serge Vohor (Vanuatu) and HE Mr Vu Khoan (Viet Nam). The Commission also decided to constitute an informal working group to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Dr Iftekhar A. Chowdhury (Bangladesh) was elected Chairperson and Mr Yang Guanqun (China) Vice-Chairperson of the informal working group.

119. Mr Jenish Kadrakunov (Kyrgyzstan) was elected Rapporteur of the plenary session.

120. The Chairperson proposed and the Commission decided to appoint two committees of the whole to consider agenda items 6, 7, 8 and 9. Committee of the Whole I elected HE Mr Alan Oaisa (Papua New Guinea) as Chairperson, and Mr Bayazid Mardoukhi (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr Kenji Shimizu (Japan) Vice-Chairpersons. Mr M.P.T. Cooray (Sri Lanka) was elected Rapporteur. Committee of the Whole II elected HE Mr A.N. Ram (India) as Chairperson, and Mr J.A.M. Giesen (Netherlands), Dr Joan Mosley (New Zealand) and Mr S. Mushtaq H. Razvi (Pakistan), as Vice-Chairpersons. Ms Merewalesi Falemaka (Fiji) was elected Rapporteur.

121. The Chairperson announced at the Commission's 744th meeting that, in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, he and the Vice-Chairpersons, constituting the Credentials Committee, had examined the credentials of all the representatives and had found them to be in order.

B. Agenda

122. At its 740th meeting, the Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.121 and E/ESCAP/L.122 and Corr.1).
4. Policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region, with particular reference to expansion of investment and intraregional trade (ST/ESCAP/1243/Part I and ST/ESCAP/1243/Part II, E/ESCAP/924, E/ESCAP/925 and Corr.1).
5. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields:
   (a) Implementation of Commission resolution 48/2 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/890);
   (b) Implementation of Commission resolution 48/12 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: role and functions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/891 and Corr.1).
6. Reports on ministerial meetings and reports of subsidiary bodies:
   (a) Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, second session (E/ESCAP/892);
   (b) Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology (E/ESCAP/893);
   (c) Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (E/ESCAP/894);
   (d) Committee on Statistics, eighth session (E/ESCAP/895, E/ESCAP/896 and Corr.1);
   (e) Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, first and second sessions (E/ESCAP/897 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/898 and Corr.1);
   (f) Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries (E/ESCAP/899);
   (g) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (E/ESCAP/900 and Corr.1).

7. Selected issues in fields of activity of the Commission and reports on its regional institutions:
    (a) Agenda for action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (E/ESCAP/902);
    (b) Progress in the implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond (E/ESCAP/901);
    (c) Problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region (E/ESCAP/904 and Corr.1);
    (d) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (E/ESCAP/903 and Corr.1);
    (e) Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization (E/ESCAP/905);
    (f) Preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (E/ESCAP/907, E/ESCAP/926);
    (g) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/906);
    (h) Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/908 and Corr.1);
    (i) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/909).
8. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies (E/ESCAP/910, E/ESCAP/911, E/ESCAP/912 and E/ESCAP/913).
9. Programme planning:
    (a) Draft programme of work, 1994-1995 (E/ESCAP/914, E/ESCAP/915);
    (b) Review of the implementation of the programme of work, 1992-1993, and proposed programme changes for 1993 (E/ESCAP/916, E/ESCAP/917 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/918/Rev.1, E/ESCAP/919).
10. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/920 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/921 and Add.1).
11. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/922 and Add.1).
12. Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fiftieth session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/923).
13. Admission of new members.
14. Other matters.
15. Adoption of the report of the Commission (E/ESCAP/L.123).

C. Account of proceedings

123. The session was declared open by HE Mr Qian Qichen, Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, the outgoing Chairperson. HE Mr Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address. The Executive Secretary read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address.

Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of Thailand

124. The Prime Minister of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, welcomed those attending the session.

125. He noted that since its establishment in 1947, ESCAP had played a very active and constructive role in the promotion of economic and social cooperation among the countries of the Asian and Pacific region. A wide range of activities had been undertaken to ensure regional growth and prosperity. Thailand, as a developing country of the region, had benefited from the activities of ESCAP over the years. It was hoped that ESCAP would play a greater role in the future.

126. Momentous developments had taken place within and outside the region. The end of the cold war, in particular, had brought new hopes and challenges for closer cooperation among the international community. It had provided an opportunity to realize regional peace, harmony and prosperity. ESCAP, as a regional organization of the United Nations, had a vital role to play in addressing economic and social issues facing the countries of the region. The reform and revitalization of the structure of the Commission would help to meet the needs of both present and future generations in the economic, ecological, social or humanitarian fields.

127. He noted that the theme of the session, "Expansion of investment and intraregional trade as a vehicle for enhancing regional economic cooperation and development in Asia and the Pacific", was very apt,

since the Asian and Pacific region was emerging as one of the most dynamic regions in the world. In recent years, a number of countries of the region, including Thailand, had achieved significant economic growth despite external and domestic difficulties. That was highly encouraging, as it indicated that with the right policies and determination, developing countries could achieve rapid progress. It was to be noted, however, that there was great diversity in the region in geography, culture, ideologies, political and socio-economic systems, and levels of development. That was one of the challenges to be tackled at the current session of the Commission. Collective effort would be needed to meet that challenge to ensure that development and progress would be spread more equitably throughout the region. It was the task of the Commission to find ways and means to strengthen cooperation among all the countries of the region.

128. Thailand, as the seat of ESCAP, had always given full support and cooperation to the activities of the Commission. The Government of Thailand would continue to do so in the firm belief that ongoing progress in the countries of Asia and the Pacific, based on mutual benefit, would contribute to better understanding among the peoples and nations of the region. With that hope, all members and associate members had gathered at the current session to chart a path towards greater economic and social development. He expressed certainty that the dignity of human beings and the nobility of the human spirit would be upheld in the process.

129. The vision of common prosperity for the whole region might seem far-fetched. But with concerted efforts and shared goals implemented by interlocking networks of cooperation, and with support from ESCAP, common prosperity should be within reach.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

130. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that the forty-ninth session was taking place at a critical juncture in both global and regional affairs. The relaxation of tensions in the post-cold war era and progress in resolving some regional conflicts had enhanced the prospects for peace, development and the enjoyment of basic human rights. In that improved atmosphere, new possibilities for international cooperation were also opening up. Yet, pockets of tension and civil strife in various parts of the world threatened to tear apart societies, devastate local and regional economies, and severely impede the attainment of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

131. He noted that political, economic and social progress were inextricably intertwined. Progress achieved in the political sphere would be difficult to sustain if economic and social conditions remained oppressive and unstable for the majority of the world's population. Similarly, economic and social progress could be achieved only in a climate of political tolerance, openness and stability.

132. Those linkages needed to be reflected in the work of the United Nations as well. It was futile, if not counterproductive, to attempt to separate the political mission of the United Nations from its economic and social mission. The concept of an integrated approach to cooperation in those areas was at the heart of the Charter of the United Nations.

133. Strengthened regional cooperation was a key element in enhancing mutual confidence and achieving political, economic and social progress. The regional commissions had played, and should continue to play, an important role in that process. In the Secretary-General's continuing efforts for reform and revitalization of the United Nations Secretariat, he had sought to reinvigorate the regional commissions and better equip them to be of service to their developing membership.

134. In his address to the forty-eighth session of the Commission, held in Beijing in 1992, he had noted that with the enhanced prospects for constructive solutions to outstanding regional conflicts and problems, the United Nations and ESCAP were prepared to do even more to promote cooperation and development throughout the region. He had had an opportunity to witness firsthand some of the efforts of the Organization in that regard during his recent visit to South-East Asia. He looked forward to the further strengthening of such efforts to achieve greater progress and development in various fields of endeavour.

135. While the slow-down in the world economy during the past year had affected the pace of progress in the region, it was heartening to note that many countries in Asia had continued to display a capacity for sustained economic growth. That had been a source of encouragement to developing countries in other regions, and was a tribute both to the sound economic policies of the Governments concerned and to the vitality and creativity of their peoples. The continued expansion of intraregional trade, investment and technology, which was the major theme of the current session of the Commission, had contributed to the dynamism that had come to characterize much of the region. It was hoped that the Commission's deliberations on that issue would further strengthen regional cooperation and provide a policy framework for the accelerated development of the entire region in the coming years.

136. A great deal remained to be done. Widespread poverty, malnutrition, disease and illiteracy still afflicted large numbers of people throughout the region. It was somewhat disappointing that, despite the region's overall progress, many countries, including in particular the least developed and Pacific island countries as well as the new members of the Commission from the

Commonwealth of Independent States, had failed to register any significant economic progress. Special support and assistance were needed to enable them to accelerate their progress and development.

137. It was vitally important that ESCAP, as the main regional arm in Asia and the Pacific for the United Nations in the economic and social fields, be fully supported. Only thus could it most effectively assist the member countries in meeting the formidable challenges ahead. The Secretary-General expressed confidence that such support would be readily forthcoming from the membership.

138. He extended his best wishes to the Commission for a most productive and rewarding session.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

139. The Executive Secretary welcomed all the delegations to the session and thanked the Prime Minister of Thailand for his address, which had reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, to the objectives of the Commission. He expressed appreciation to the Foreign Minister of Thailand for his support for ESCAP activities. He also expressed gratitude to the outgoing Chairperson, the Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, for the encouragement and support he had provided to ESCAP during his tenure as Chairperson.

140. He noted that the tasks before the Commission were daunting. According to its terms of reference, the Commission was vested with the responsibility for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of countries and territories in the region, both among themselves and with other countries of the world. In the current improved political atmosphere, there were many areas, such as trade, investment, and transfer of technology, which offered opportunities for intensifying cooperation among the members and associate members. The secretariat hoped for a positive outcome of the Commission's deliberations on those and other important issues.

Policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region, with particular reference to expansion of investment and intraregional trade

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

141. The Executive Secretary referred to the prevailing uncertainty in the external economic environment confronting the developing economies of the ESCAP region and arising from the dismally low rates of economic growth in the major industrial countries, the poor prospects of recovery of those economies in the immediate future, the inability to conclude the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the scarcity of financial resources and the instability of exchange rates. Despite the unfavourable international climate, the ESCAP region continued to achieve a high average rate of economic growth and to retain its reputation as the most dynamic region in the world. Expansion of domestic markets, increased intraregional trade, enhancement of competitiveness of exports in the global market, and maintenance of stability in domestic wages and prices had been key factors in achieving that remarkable success.

142. He observed that the average growth performance for the region as a whole masked tremendous variations within the region and sometimes within countries. Growth performance in the least developed countries, the small island economies and the economies in transition from centrally planned systems had remained highly unsatisfactory; special efforts were needed at national and international levels to overcome the diverse problems confronting those economies and to accelerate their growth. In that context he referred to the establishment by the Commission of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and the first meetings of those two special bodies early in 1993. He stressed the need for improvements in the functioning of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries.

143. He referred to the dynamic growth and expansion of trade in the developing countries of the ESCAP region and the important role that intraregional and interregional trade had played in that process. He observed, however, that participation in intraregional trade had remained restricted to the economies in East and South-East Asia. In many other countries, inadequate savings, outdated technology, poor entrepreneurial skills and infrastructural bottlenecks of various kinds had restricted flexibility, which was needed to garner the benefits of trade expansion in the region. Conscious policy interventions and regionwide cooperative efforts were essential to stimulate an outward-oriented development strategy for the countries that lagged behind.

144. The difficulties that the developing countries in the ESCAP region encountered in mobilizing resources for development and in expanding the exports of traditional and new products to their principal markets had made it imperative for them to strengthen regional cooperation and expand intraregional trade. Such cooperation would, *inter alia*, shelter the region's small economies from external pressures, while serving as a useful complement to existing safeguards for multilateralism. Regional cooperation could give a boost to the inflow of foreign capital and the associated technology and expertise, with its stimulating effects on production and exports.

145. The Executive Secretary observed that several factors constrained the prospects for increasing the flow of interregional trade and investment to the countries in the region that had so far not been able to take advantage of export-led growth. Coordinated regional strategies were therefore required to stimulate efficient use of capital, expand intraregional and interregional markets, and encourage capital flows within the region, thereby promoting an outward-oriented growth process. The far-reaching domestic reform programmes being implemented in almost all developing countries in the ESCAP region and the movement towards more liberal private-sector-oriented economies enhanced the scope for increased regional economic cooperation in the region.

146. The Executive Secretary also observed that a disturbing feature in the region's development in recent years had been the growing arms build-up and the spiralling military expenditure. That had taken place despite the recent positive trend in the region's political climate, which had encouraged resolution or containment of several long-standing conflicts and disputes. He further observed that military expenditure had outpaced growth rates of gross domestic product in certain countries during the 1980s. Often the consequence had been unsustainable fiscal deficits, reduction in social sector expenditure, and a decline in growth rates. Concluding that peace and prosperity for the individual countries and the region must go hand in hand, the Executive Secretary urged the Commission to consider how it could encourage sober reflection, mutual trust and forward-looking development.

147. He informed the Commission of the progress that had been made in implementing the significant decisions it had made at its forty-eighth session regarding its reorganization and revitalization. In that connection, he referred to the first meetings of several of the newly established subsidiary bodies of the Commission held during the past year, as well as of others scheduled to be held later in 1993. He also informed the Commission of a number of ministerial meetings that had been held since its last session.

148. He further informed the Commission of his efforts to reinforce the functional relationship between the ESCAP secretariat and various United Nations organizations and bodies with a view to taking a coordinated approach to problem-solving and rendering assistance to their common membership. He briefed the Commission on the initiatives taken by the secretariat to enlist the support and cooperation of financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as the efforts to expand cooperation with several of the subregional organizations.

149. He concluded by observing that through mutual goodwill, support and cooperation, the opportunity could be created and nurtured to confront the many challenges that the ESCAP region continued to face.

Recent economic and social developments

150. The Commission reviewed recent economic and social developments in the region, on the basis of, *inter alia*, the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1992* (ST/ESCAP/1243/Part I and ST/ESCAP/1243/Part II). Part one of the *Survey* contained a review of recent trends in the performance and policies of the economies of the ESCAP region. Part two comprised the study on the theme topic of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, "Expansion of investment and intraregional trade as a vehicle for enhancing regional economic cooperation and development in Asia and the Pacific". The *Survey*, together with documents E/ESCAP/924 and E/ESCAP/925 and Corr.1, provided background information on the evolving social and economic developments in the region and the relevant policy perspectives.

151. The Commission took note of the dramatic transition the world had experienced in recent years, with far-reaching changes in international political and economic relations. Those changes presented the world community with new opportunities and challenges. While noting that the end of the cold war era had created conditions favourable for smooth progress in economic and social development, the Commission expressed serious concern about the various conflicts arising out of ethnic, religious or other considerations, which could jeopardize regional and international peace and stability. The Commission stressed that international mechanisms needed to be strengthened, and that the United Nations should play a central role to ensure peace and stability as a prerequisite for economic and social progress.

152. The Commission took note of several elements in the international economic environment that adversely affected the development prospects of the ESCAP region. Among those were the slowing down of world economic growth, the global scarcity of financial resources, uncertainty concerning multilateral trading systems and the instability of exchange rates. Those trends urgently needed to be reversed through internationally coordinated policy action.

153. The Commission noted with satisfaction that despite the adverse international climate, the developing countries of the ESCAP region had remained the most economically dynamic in the world, with an average rate of economic growth much higher than that achieved by any other region. Sustained high rates of growth had enabled many countries in the region to reduce poverty substantially and to improve the overall quality of life of their people. The Commission expressed concern, however, that the beneficial impact of economic dynamism was not distributed equitably among all countries of the region, or all sections of the populations within those countries.

154. It expressed particular concern about the lack of vitality in the region's least developed and Pacific island economies and their inability to achieve satisfactory rates of growth and the necessary structural transformation. Many references were made to a variety of structural constraints faced by those countries. The difficulties encountered by the economies in transition from centrally planned systems to market orientation also received the Commission's attention. Those disadvantaged economies must be reinvigorated and brought into the mainstream of the region's dynamism. The Commission urged the international community to give adequate financial and technical assistance to those countries to support their development efforts.

155. The Commission took note of the substantial policy and structural reforms being carried out by most countries of the region to achieve macroeconomic stability, liberalizing their trade, investment and financial regimes, ensuring a more balanced role of the private and public sectors, and enhancing the productive efficiency of enterprises. Such policies were expected to stimulate investment and growth in the countries concerned. The trend towards greater convergence of policies and programmes in the region was also expected to facilitate the process of economic cooperation through intraregional trade, investment and technology flows.

156. The Commission recognized the benefits that the countries of the ESCAP region could derive from expanded intraregional trade, investment and technology flows through regional cooperation, and urged that such cooperation be strengthened. However, it observed that open multilateralism in trade and investment was the most effective way to serve the interests of all parties in the global community. In that context the Commission stressed that the speedy and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations was needed to strengthen a transparent and equitable multilateral trading system. Regional cooperation arrangements and schemes should be consistent with open multilateralism so as to serve as building blocks towards the ultimate objective of global free multilateral trade.

157. The Commission noted the concerns expressed about the formation of large trading blocs, encompassing the prosperous economies of North America and Europe, traditionally the principal trading partners of the countries of the Asian and Pacific region, and the possibility of those blocs becoming protective to the detriment of trading opportunities for other countries. It was also observed that those arrangements did not need to be so restrictive as to divert trade. Instead, the growth-stimulating effects of freer trade within those blocs could result in incremental trade which all trading partners could share profitably.

158. The Commission was deeply concerned at the prevailing social malaise affecting the region. High rates of population growth in many parts of the region, widespread poverty, inadequate levels of health and nutrition, and environmental deterioration received the Commission's closest attention.

159. While high rates of population growth and the changing age composition of the population tended to aggravate poverty and environmental problems, the region's vast human resources constituted a huge potential asset. The Commission, therefore, placed strong emphasis on the development of human resources as a means of stimulating economic growth and development, as well as improving human welfare. That, in many cases, required a reorientation of national investment and expenditure policies and priorities, with greater emphasis placed on social expenditure. Along with accelerated economic growth, such a reorientation of national policies and programmes could form a vital component of poverty alleviation programmes in the region, which had been a focus of the Commission's activities. The Commission recognized the strategic importance of demographic factors in human resources development, as they were interrelated with employment, education, skill and capacity development, health, and the status and role of women.

160. Many concerns about the state of the environment were expressed during the Commission's deliberations. Great emphasis was placed on environmental preservation and protection through strengthening the planning and management mechanisms to reflect fully the concern for the environment and sustainability of development. In that context, it was strongly recommended that the relevant components of Agenda 21 should be implemented at the national and regional levels. To enable the national Governments to implement the relevant programmes successfully, the Commission urged the international community to provide adequate financial and technical support to the developing countries of the region. It was recommended that cooperation between Governments should be promoted on environment and development issues, and for dealing with environmental problems that involved more than one country.

161. The Commission adopted resolution 49/7 on the implementation of decisions of the General Assembly on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, in Asia and the Pacific.

Expansion of investment and intraregional trade as a vehicle for enhancing regional economic cooperation and development in Asia and the Pacific

162. In deliberating on the theme topic of its forty-ninth session, "Expansion of investment and intraregional trade as a vehicle for enhancing regional

economic cooperation and development in Asia and the Pacific", the Commission observed that the study of the topic, contained in part two of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1992*, provided a useful analysis and insights into issues relating to the expansion of intraregional trade and investment. It noted that several economies, particularly in East and South-East Asia, had successfully implemented an export-led growth strategy. The complementary nature of the growing linkages between trade and investment within the region, and the generally flexible production structures and responsive policy environment were major factors underlying the achievements of those economies. The Commission agreed that economic policy in the region should promote the synergetic nexus between trade and investment, which offered significant potential for enhancing regional economic cooperation. It endorsed the lowering of trade barriers, particularly non-tariff barriers, to ensure expansion of intraregional trade. Noting the virtues of a free and vibrant multilateral trading system, the Commission stressed that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations needed to be brought to a balanced and early conclusion. It agreed that those were the two essential elements underlying the prospects for a global economic recovery. Delegations from some developed member countries assured the Commission that their domestic policies were supportive of those objectives.

163. The Commission stated that increased financial flows, technology transfer and greater opportunities for market access within the region for the less developed economies would assist in promoting an export-led development strategy. Some delegations remarked that the issue of enhancing the absorptive capacity in the recipient countries was also relevant. In that regard, several delegations confirmed their continued support of the promotion of direct investment flows and technology transfer to the developing countries of the region, particularly the least developed and land-locked countries, as well as the Pacific islands and the disadvantaged economies in transition. They pledged their commitment to the provision of assistance for improving the investment climate in those economies through the development of infrastructure and human resources, and the strengthening of institutional support mechanisms.

164. The Commission emphasized that, despite the rapid rise of intraregional investment in recent years, the distribution within the region of such flows and of the virtuous impact of the trade- and investment-led growth strategy, remained skewed. A wider and more balanced dispersion was essential. The Commission suggested that the secretariat should implement some of the measures proposed in its theme topic study on a priority basis in order to give practical meaning to its policy-oriented research. In particular, it recommended the following: strengthening of the trade information system within the region; technical assistance and support for the establishment of a regional investment information and promotion service; promotion of capital markets; facilitation of technology transfer; development of export-oriented small and medium enterprises through facilitation of credit opportunities, marketing assistance and technological upgrading; and establishment of a regional network of trade-related research institutions. The delegations of several developing countries stated that their Governments had liberalized their economic policies and were strengthening support services in order to ensure the successful operation of an outward-oriented development strategy.

165. The Commission noted the concerns expressed about the emergence of trading arrangements such as the single European market and the North American free trade agreement, especially as those included several of the world's most prosperous economies and major markets. It also noted that schemes that were consistent with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) might not necessarily be inward-looking; rather, freer trade within those blocs could foster growth from which all trading countries could benefit. Some delegations, however, expressed fears of restricted market access and of adverse diversionary impact on trade and investment flows for the non-participating economies. Accordingly, the Commission endorsed the contention of the theme topic study that the long-term solution of regional as well as global prosperity lay in multilateralism and the openness of economies. The Commission recognized that open regionalism did not contradict multilateralism, but rather complemented growth efforts based on trade expansion. The Commission viewed GATT-consistent subregional cooperation as paving the way towards greater coordination of economic policies among selected groups of countries by establishing a sound foundation for economic cooperation on a larger scale in the region, and it stressed the importance of inter-subregional cooperation.

166. The Commission emphasized that industrial restructuring was needed to facilitate the operation of the trade and investment nexus, especially in the least developed countries, the Pacific islands and the economies in transition. It pointed out that the relocation of industries from the more developed to the less developed countries, as a result of shifts in comparative advantage, was a major factor in enhancing regional economic cooperation and development. Industrial estates, special economic zones, bonded areas and export-processing zones, which offered a wide range of fiscal and infrastructural facilities, were important instruments in furthering the interdependency of economies within the region. The Commission drew attention to emerging trade-related concerns, such as trade in services and the impact of environmental regulations on trade, which were relevant in the context of policy formulation for the expansion of investment and intraregional trade. The relevance of trade

efficiency issues and of ensuring adequate quality standards of products in the developing countries of the region was recognized.

167. The Commission commended the work of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and urged the secretariat to ensure efficient implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment. The Commission recommended that the participation of countries in activities under the action programme should be as wide as possible. Some delegations suggested that the interests of participating countries in particular elements of the action programme should be given due consideration by the secretariat, especially in assessing the requirements of technical assistance and advisory services for promoting a wider and more balanced spread of the trade and investment nexus in the region.

Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields

Implementation of Commission resolution 48/2 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission

Implementation of Commission resolution 48/12 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: role and functions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

168. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/890 and E/ESCAP/891 and Corr.1.

169. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for document E/ESCAP/890, which provided information on the progress made in the implementation of resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission. It looked forward to the report on that matter to be submitted to the Commission at its fiftieth session in 1994, as called for under that resolution. It noted that in view of the importance of the matter, an item on the follow-up to resolution 48/2 had been recurrently placed on the agenda of the sessions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) since the adoption of that resolution. It recommended that the practice should be continued.

170. The Commission was informed of the efforts that had been made to prepare the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1994-1995, in accordance with the thematic approach, and the decision of the Commission to reduce the number of subprogrammes from 15 to 6. In the preparation of the proposed programme of work, the secretariat had benefited from the advice of ACPR. The Commission welcomed the proposed programme of work under the revised subprogramme structure and called for the provision of adequate resources for its implementation. The importance of linkages among the themes and of cooperation among subregional bodies was emphasized.

171. The Commission noted that since the adoption of resolution 48/2, the following committees and subsidiary bodies had held meetings: the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Group, the Committee on Statistics, the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries and the Special Body on the Pacific Island Developing Countries. The committees that had not yet met, and additional meetings of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Group, would be convened later in the year.

172. The Commission commended the secretariat on the extent of implementation of resolution 48/2 and called for further efforts for the continued implementation of that resolution, particularly paragraph 2, in which the Commission invited the Executive Secretary to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the thematic intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission and implement its revised programme of work. The Commission expressed the hope that a restructured ESCAP secretariat would lead to greater effectiveness in the promotion of regional cooperation and avoidance of overlapping service functions. It welcomed the efforts of the Executive Secretary to strengthen cooperation and coordination within the secretariat.

173. The Commission recalled that the Secretary-General was carrying out an exercise for restructuring and reorganizing the Secretariat of the United Nations both at its Headquarters and in the field. It was likely that the structure of the ESCAP secretariat and procedures to be followed would be changed following the completion of that exercise. The Commission welcomed the information that ACPR would be informed of future developments as they occurred.

174. The Commission noted with interest that one of the objectives of the restructuring exercise was to maximize the impact of the work of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development. It observed that the Secretary-General had emphasized that the regional commissions were a unique asset and could make an important contribution to the enhancement of cooperation for development. At a time when strengthened regional cooperation held the key to the resolution of conflicts and to economic and social progress in so many spheres, the potential of the regional commissions and their secretariats should be better exploited for the benefit of their constituents and the Organization as a whole.

175. The Commission emphasized that better definition was needed of the functions and responsibilities of the various entities operating in the economic, social and related fields in the United Nations as a whole. For optimum benefit, it urged that the restructuring exercise be accompanied by the introduction of more effective and relevant programmes and the elimination of marginal ones, and that to ensure the efficient use of resources, duplication should be avoided.

176. The Commission reaffirmed the response it had submitted to the General Assembly pertaining to Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields as contained in document E/ESCAP/891 and Corr.1. It noted with appreciation that, as directed by the Commission in resolution 48/12, the response had been prepared by ACPR and finalized following consultations with members and associate members of the Commission. ESCAP members and associate members were called on to follow up resolution 48/12 through active participation in various efforts of the General Assembly and its Working Group on Restructuring and Revitalization of the United Nations in the Economic, Social and Related Fields. It was noted that the Commission response to General Assembly resolution 46/235 was part of an ongoing process and might require further review. The Commission noted also that there were possibilities for its involvement in determining the socio-economic parameters for the peace-building activities of the United Nations in the region and for extending the ESCAP mandate in the area of emergency humanitarian activities.

177. The Commission emphasized that the restructuring exercise should, *inter alia*, lead to the strengthening of the regional commissions. Owing to their proximity to their member States, their vital role in a number of sectoral activities and their multidisciplinary perspectives, the regional commissions were able to respond rapidly to each region's particular needs. It was noted that the multidisciplinary capabilities of regional commissions had made them the main mechanisms for developing social and economic cooperation in their respective regions. It expressed the view that strengthening should be based upon the principle of complementarity among the regional commissions, Headquarters, and other global programmes, taking into consideration each entity's comparative advantage. It recognized that ESCAP had distinct advantages in operational activities in several fields such as energy, natural resources, remote sensing and transport.

178. It was felt that the strengthening of the regional commissions could be accomplished through the distribution of functions and resources, and the delegation of commensurate authority. The commissions should be able to maintain their capacity for economic and social research, policy analysis and statistics in the fields of their mandated activities and programmes. Their authority and ability to take up regional issues of a cross-sectoral nature should be enhanced, and their capacity to contribute to the preparation and the follow-up of global programmes should be reinforced.

179. It was suggested that adequate authority should be delegated to the commissions to discharge their responsibilities for the coordination of regional activities of the United Nations in cooperation with the appropriate United Nations programmes and specialized agencies. The executive secretaries of the regional commissions should be the principal representatives of the Secretary-General for economic, social and related activities in their respective regions. It was further suggested that ESCAP should play a leading coordinating role in the region. Greater attention should be directed towards enhancing the effectiveness of the management and coordination of regional operational activities.

180. The Commission adopted resolution 49/10 on strengthening the role of ESCAP in the coordination of regional operational activities.

181. Several delegations pointed out that adequate budgetary provision was required to enable the secretariat to carry out the strengthened functions. That could be found through internal redeployment within the United Nations system, including redeployment from administrative to substantive areas of work and through decentralization to the regional commissions of a larger proportion of resources for operational activities, including resources allocated in the programme budget under section 12, the regular programme of technical cooperation. It was suggested that the allocation of budgetary resources to ESCAP should take into account, *inter alia*, the region's share of the world's population, its considerable economic and social diversity and needs, and the percentage of its population living below the poverty line. It should also take into account the requirements for carrying out the Commission's programme of work under the new thematic approach.

182. The Commission expressed appreciation of the role of ACPR, as a mechanism for communication and inter-sessional consultation with the secretariat, in facilitating the process of restructuring and revitalization.

Reports on ministerial meetings and reports of subsidiary bodies

183. The Commission had before it the reports on the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, second session; the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology; and the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference. It also had

before it the reports of the Committee on Statistics on its eighth session; the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its first and second sessions; the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, which had met during the period since the forty-eighth session.

Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, second session

184. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/892.

185. The Commission endorsed the decisions of the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications at its second session, held at Bangkok from 3 to 5 June 1992, and commended the follow-up action taken by the secretariat since the launching of phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific.

186. Many delegations stated that the priorities determined by the Meeting of Ministers conformed to those identified in their own national development plans, thus confirming the view of the Meeting of Ministers that the regional action programme for phase II of the Decade had adequately reflected the prevailing needs of the developing members and associate members of the Commission. They reaffirmed their commitment to participate actively in the implementation of the regional action programme.

187. The Commission noted with appreciation that since the launching of phase II of the Decade the secretariat had received bilateral support for the implementation of the regional action programme from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea.

188. The Commission was, however, deeply concerned that the level of resources that had been mobilized was still inadequate, particularly in view of the delay and the proposed drastic reduction in funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Commission adopted resolution 49/2 on resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific.

189. The Commission realized that the high rate of economic growth in the region would generate further demand for better infrastructure and more efficient and effective transport and communications services. It requested the secretariat to continue to accord high priority to that field.

190. While recognizing the strong need to develop transport and communications infrastructure and services at the national level, the Commission emphasized the importance of coordination and cooperation at the subregional and regional levels so as to strengthen the regional transport and communications network. In that connection, the representative of Thailand cited the example of the Mekong Friendship Bridge, which would link Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the representative of Bangladesh mentioned Jamuna Bridge, which was due for completion by the year 2000 and would fill in one of the main missing links in the Asian Highway network.

191. The Commission noted the concern of the land-locked countries, in particular with regard to the importance of linkages with adjacent countries and the need for efficient border-crossing facilitation measures and transit rights agreements, as well as access to appropriate seaports. In that connection, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran offered to share that country's experience and expertise with regard to a study it had undertaken on the railway network that linked southern ports in the Persian Gulf to the northern boundary of the Islamic Republic of Iran with Turkmenistan. The secretariat welcomed that offer as it would be a useful input to a study, funded by the Netherlands, that would be undertaken in the near future to assist the countries of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to determine the most appropriate corridors to a seaport.

192. Noting the importance of transport linkages, the Governments of Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation stressed that a feasibility study needed to be made on the railway connections of the north-eastern railways of the region and that a working group should be established for that purpose. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Governments of France and the Republic of Korea had affirmed their willingness to contribute to the study.

193. The Commission noted the emphasis placed on the importance of maritime transport development. It also noted that there was a need for continued assistance from the secretariat in that area, in particular for the Pacific island countries.

194. The Commission further noted the importance given to the development of inland water transport by the riverine countries of the region. The representative of Bangladesh stated that an inland water transport centre was needed in the region. He reminded the Commission that the Government of Bangladesh had offered to host such a centre.

195. The Government of India requested the secretariat: (a) to involve India in the expert group to study the development of the Asian Highway; (b) to consider India as one of the sites for the proposed corridor studies in connection with the development of multimodal transport; and (c) to continue its assistance in the development of inland water transport with a focus on human resources development.

196. The Commission was informed of the active involvement of national institutions in the provision of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) assistance. The Central Road Research Institute in New Delhi, which had been a host institute for a UNDP/ESCAP project on the development of rural road infrastructure, provided training and course materials to a number of countries, as a result of which Mongolia had developed national standards for rural roads. Indonesia offered members of the Commission, as well as non-members such as Mali and the Sudan, the use of its national telecommunications education and training facility in Bandung.

197. Recognizing the linkage between the development of transport and communications and the promotion of tourism, the Commission noted that various measures to promote tourism should include such infrastructure development. It welcomed the statement by the representative of Japan in which he recognized the importance of tourism in the economic development of developing countries and said that his country would continue to provide active assistance and cooperation to the secretariat. The Commission noted with appreciation that a seminar on investment and economic cooperation in the tourism sector in Pacific island countries would be held in Tokyo in October 1993, with financial assistance from Japan.

198. The representatives of the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Universal Postal Union and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity stated that inter-agency cooperation, which had been enhanced through the formulation of the regional action programme, would be continued for the implementation of the programme.

199. The representative of UNDP stated that it was the view of his organization that the success or failure of the Decade would depend on the interest and commitment of the Governments of the ESCAP members and associate members in the region and that the international organizations, particularly UNDP, could only facilitate that commitment. UNDP had informed the Commission at its forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions that it would not be able to meet the same level of commitments as it had in the first quinquennium of the Decade, although UNDP was likely to remain the single largest donor for the Decade. The organizations concerned should actively seek other sources of funding and co-financing.

200. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for hosting the ESCAP Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Commercial Aspects of Railway Modernization and the joint ESCAP/IMO Seminar on Environmentally Sound Port Development and Management and for the provision of experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

201. The Commission welcomed the general support from the Government of Japan for phase II of the Decade. It also welcomed the offer of the Government of Sri Lanka to host a country-level workshop on the development of multimodal transport.

Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology

202. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/893.

203. The Commission felt that the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, held at Tehran in June 1992, had adequately covered in its report the major issues of concern and had made valuable recommendations to accelerate the pace of industrial and technological development in the region. The Commission was of the opinion that the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development adopted by the Meeting was a pragmatic and useful document containing a wide range of recommendations for policy adjustment, institutional development and other measures for strengthening national capacity and effectiveness in further promoting industrial and technological development. The Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific, which had been adopted in a spirit of understanding, would foster greater cooperation at regional and subregional levels to facilitate and expedite the process of industrialization and thereby help sustain the industrial dynamism of the Asian and Pacific region.

204. The Commission felt that the report of the Meeting of Ministers (ST/ESCAP/1209), the Regional Strategy and Action Plan, and the Tehran Declaration, together with the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific which was adopted by the Commission at its forty-eighth session in 1992, would serve as valuable guidelines for the formulation of national-level action and regional cooperation measures during the 1990s.

205. The Commission therefore adopted the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development, and the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific and urged all concerned to give due attention to the implementation of the recommendations contained therein, in accordance with the level as well as the objectives of industrial and technological development in the countries concerned. The Commission adopted resolution 49/3, the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific.

206. The Commission, while expressing satisfaction that the secretariat had already undertaken several initiatives for the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, directed the secretariat to accord priority to the activities and prepare concrete projects for the implementation of regional and

subregional cooperative actions, as suggested in the Seoul Plan of Action, the report of the Meeting of Ministers, the Regional Strategy and Action Plan, and the Tehran Declaration. It also urged donors to provide all possible assistance to the secretariat for that purpose.

207. The Commission emphasized that well-balanced and stable growth of the world economy was essential for sustained development of the industrial sector at the national level. Furthermore, improvement of infrastructure, appropriate development of human resources, provision of support services and adequate supply of energy were critical elements for strengthening national capacity and consolidating the industrial development base. All those elements therefore required urgent attention.

208. The Commission pointed out that strengthening the private sector and enhancing its role were essential for promoting competitiveness in manufacturing at both domestic and international levels. While expressing satisfaction at various reform measures, including liberalization, decentralization, deregulation and restructuring, the Commission emphasized that an open trading system and multilateralism were essential for promoting greater competitiveness and the integration of industrial activities. It was pleased to note specifically those activities implemented in connection with the development of technological capabilities; the creation of an appropriate climate conducive to foreign direct investment and technology transfer; the development of human resources in science and technology, including vocational training; and the development, transfer and application of new and emerging technologies. However, despite the tangible achievements of some countries in the region, most of the countries in the region were confronted with problems in building and using technological capabilities, in attracting foreign direct investment and in promoting transfer of technology, particularly with regard to access to information on new and emerging technologies and commercialization of the results of research and development. Those countries also had acute shortages of skilled technicians, as well as of scientific and technological personnel. The Commission therefore urged the countries of the region to strengthen efforts to implement effectively the various economic, industrial and technological reform measures already adopted.

209. The Commission felt that cooperation among the private sectors of various countries was essential to the overall improvement of manufacturing competitiveness and industrial efficiency. It therefore urged the secretariat to strengthen its activities aimed at promoting enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation, through the organization of business promotion meetings, exchange visits and technology fairs. The Commission also urged the countries, and their private sectors, to participate in the Taejon International Exposition, scheduled to be held in the Republic of Korea from August to November 1993.

210. The Commission noted the vital importance of industrial technology in improving productivity, restructuring industry and pursuing economic growth. Regional cooperation on technological development depended primarily on the initiatives of the private sector, while the role of Government was limited to promotion and facilitation. The secretariat should strengthen activities to assist countries in adopting appropriate industrial technologies, including advanced materials technologies, biotechnology, automated manufacturing systems, and process planning controls, as well as in facilitating the flow of those and other technologies from the most advanced developing countries to the less developed economies.

211. The Commission felt that there were tremendous opportunities for promoting intraregional and interregional flows of investment in the Asian and Pacific region. The Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development and the Seoul Plan of Action contained concrete recommendations. The Commission directed the secretariat to accord higher priority to such activities.

212. The Commission emphasized that industrial financing was a critical concern of the developing countries of the region. It urged the secretariat to undertake activities to explore innovative means of industrial financing, including the development of an appropriate capital market.

213. The Commission noted with concern the constraints faced by the least developed and island developing economies and the economies in transition with regard to industrial and technological development. It directed the secretariat to accord higher priority to activities aimed at assisting those economies. While expressing satisfaction that the secretariat was currently implementing a project on investment promotion in the least developed and island developing economies and the economies in transition, the Commission strongly felt that those groups needed particular assistance in the following areas: developing human resources and creating appropriate capabilities and a climate conducive to promoting foreign direct investment and the accompanying technology transfer; the assessment and adoption of new and emerging technologies; research and development; standardization and quality control; the development of telecommunications; and the upgrading of the technology of export-oriented small and medium enterprises so as to increase their competitiveness. The Commission was of the opinion that an analysis of the experience of the newly industrializing economies in technology-led industrial development could be useful for the least developed and island developing economies and the economies in transition, and directed the secretariat to undertake activities to that end. It urged donors to extend increased assistance in that respect.

214. The Commission noted with appreciation the secretariat's activities in industry and technology aimed at assisting the newly independent Asian republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The recent mission of the secretariat to assess the industrial and technological potential, to provide advisory services and to develop a package for a technical assistance programme to promote industrial and technological development had been timely. The Commission urged the secretariat to mobilize all possible resources to assist the Asian republics, especially in the areas of market-oriented reforms, industrial restructuring and rehabilitation, skills promotion and investment opportunities. Exchange visits of officials and private entrepreneurs from those republics to the newly industrializing economies, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the developed countries would be desirable and fruitful.

215. The level of technology of many industries in the newly independent economies in transition appeared to be low, causing them to have difficulty in competing in a liberalized market economy. The economies did not have access to technological information and had little experience in technology transfer. The technological capabilities that they possessed needed to be reoriented to meet their development needs and should be geared more to the requirements of the production sector. The Commission, therefore, requested the secretariat to develop special programmes for those economies in the areas of industrial restructuring and technological development.

216. The Commission emphasized that activities to develop industrial and technical skills needed to be strengthened at the national, subregional and regional levels through regional cooperation. It called for greater participation of the private sector in the development of science and technology and technical and managerial skills. Because shorter product life-cycles threatened the competitiveness of existing products, flexible training programmes to develop the skills required for the adoption of new and emerging technologies were essential. The secretariat was requested to devise programmes to promote the development of human resources in technology and vocational training.

217. The Commission strongly emphasized that the development and promotion of small and medium industries was essential and required urgent attention. It held the view that small and medium enterprises were important agents for industrial and technological development in national economies, and should be supported financially with concessionary loans in areas of technological upgrading. Those industries required special assistance through the provision of technological information and technology transfer. The Commission directed the secretariat to strengthen its activities in those areas. It suggested that the secretariat should undertake a study on the impact of liberalization, deregulation and restructuring measures on small and medium industries. It also suggested that the secretariat should initiate a study on the regional experience of export-oriented small and medium industries, focusing on certain sectors, such as textiles, leather and electronics, and should organize a regional seminar on that subject.

218. The Commission pointed out that industrial decentralization and the dispersal of industries to the rural areas were essential for balanced industrial development at the national level. Appropriate activities should therefore be initiated at the regional level to assist countries in achieving meaningful industrial dispersal and rural industrialization.

219. The Commission noted with appreciation the current efforts and offer of the Government of Japan to assist the developing countries of the region in developing and adopting industrial technology, based on the concept of "techno-globalism", and in creating a basic structure for creative research and development, especially in the fields of energy and environmental protection. The Commission also expressed appreciation of the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to extend cooperation and assistance to the least developed economies and the disadvantaged economies in transition in order to facilitate their economic development and reform, the offer of the Government of Pakistan to provide training for public and private sector representatives from the newly independent disadvantaged economies in transition, and the offer of the Government of the Russian Federation to share its research and development facilities with the countries of the region to facilitate the undertaking of joint research programmes.

220. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the follow-up activities undertaken by the secretariat in implementing the recommendations of the Seoul Plan of Action on Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific. It felt that the proposal to hold a meeting in 1993 of the forum for sustainable industrial development and restructuring was timely. The Government of Malaysia agreed in principle to host the meeting at Kuala Lumpur from 6 to 10 December 1993.

221. The Commission noted the useful work being done by the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM). However, RNAM was passing through a critical phase of institutional financing. The Commission urged all participating members to pay their contributions regularly and on time. It also urged the donors to provide sufficient funding support for the programmed activities of the project during the fifth phase (1992-1996), as approved by the Commission at its forty-eighth session. The Commission was pleased to approve the application of Viet Nam for membership of RNAM.

222. The Commission expressed appreciation of the close cooperation of UNIDO with the secretariat in the provision of associate experts in various fields of industry and technology and of the cooperation extended in the preparatory activities as well as during the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology. It acknowledged with appreciation and welcomed the desire of UNIDO to intensify its cooperation with the secretariat in implementing the priority recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers.

223. The Commission noted with interest the various activities undertaken by the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) in the promotion of small and medium industries and felt that cooperation between the secretariat and WASME should be further strengthened. In that respect, it noted with appreciation the cooperation extended by WASME in the organization of the Private Sector Symposium, held at Tehran in June 1992. It also noted with interest the outcome of the World Convention of Small and Medium Enterprises, held at Beijing in March 1993, which was jointly sponsored by the secretariat.

224. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Governments of China, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for their generous financial contribution to the activities in the field of industrial and technological development, and to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the generous host facilities and other arrangements made for the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology.

Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference

225. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/894.

226. It reviewed the deliberations of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali from 19 to 27 August 1992. The Asian and Pacific Population Conference was a decennial ministerial-level meeting. The Fourth Conference was organized jointly by ESCAP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and was hosted by the Government of Indonesia. The Commission also reviewed the 67 recommendations of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, which had been adopted by the Conference. The recommendations covered issues relating to population, the environment and development, and the need for bringing into balance population dynamics, socio-economic development, the use of natural resources and environmental quality. The Declaration also made strong recommendations on urbanization; internal and international migration; family planning and maternal and child health; population and human resources development; women and population; population and poverty alleviation; mortality and morbidity; population ageing; population data, research and dissemination of information; and resource mobilization. In addition to those recommendations, the Declaration established the goals of achieving replacement level fertility (2.2 children per woman) by the year 2010 or sooner and reducing infant mortality to 40 per thousand live births or lower during the same period, as well as reducing maternal mortality by half in those countries and areas in which the level was high.

227. The Commission fully endorsed the recommendations of the Bali Declaration and accepted its call for the members and associate members to implement the recommendations and strive to achieve its targets and goals.

228. The Commission considered a number of follow-up strategies proposed by the secretariat. The strategies were arranged under four categories in the document under review: (a) policy and programme development; (b) population data and policy research; (c) information and population awareness; and (d) human resources development in the field of population. In endorsing those strategies, the Commission noted that it expected the secretariat to play a major role in continuing to provide assistance to the members and associate members in that regard.

229. The Commission noted that population policies, strategies and goals relating to population were increasingly intertwined with those relating to the environment, natural resources, national development, the alleviation of poverty, and distributive justice. Such policies must be based on a clear understanding of the nature, direction and extent of the interrelationship of those factors. It acknowledged with satisfaction that the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference was a step forward in establishing a common ground for formulating future policies and programmes to address those interrelationships.

230. The Commission commended the past efforts of the secretariat in assisting the countries of the region in reducing their population growth rates. However, it noted with concern that, although some countries in the region had succeeded in reducing population growth, the growth rate in many countries remained high and the population of the region was growing at the rapid rate of 1.7 per cent per annum. In order to bring population growth down to a manageable level, there was a need to strengthen efforts to develop comprehensive family planning programme strategies, including community participation and the integration of family planning programmes with maternal and child health programmes. It recognized the pioneering role that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had played in improving the quality and quantity of family planning services, and suggested that, keeping in view their past performance and future potential, NGOs should play a more active role in supporting family planning programme activities.

231. The Commission noted that, while health conditions had improved in most of the countries of the region, there were some countries where infant and child mortality and maternal mortality levels were considerably higher than the regional average. The Commission therefore urged the countries concerned to strengthen their efforts to improve health conditions in order to reduce further the mortality levels, especially of children and mothers.

232. The Commission recognized the stress being created by the migration of rural people to metropolitan areas and the consequences for urban environments. It urged the Governments concerned to develop better rural infrastructure for dispersion of industry and improved land-use patterns in order to slow down that influx of people to urban areas. The Commission noted that some innovative approaches, such as the development of decentralized regional industrial centres and parks, could influence urbanization patterns. It suggested that the secretariat examine the implications and consequences of such approaches.

233. The Commission also noted that emerging issues, such as acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), teenage/adolescent fertility, women's issues and the ageing of the population, were becoming an urgent concern of many Governments and there was a need to develop policies, programmes, and information, education and communication strategies to reach those groups on a priority basis.

234. The Commission further noted that, in several countries, changing population age structures resulting from a rapid decline in fertility and an improvement in life expectancy were causing significant increases in the proportion of the elderly population as well as in their absolute numbers. Therefore, it was becoming increasingly important not only to address the welfare and development concerns of the elderly but also to develop appropriate policies and programmes, including social security systems and the involvement of families, so that the elderly could contribute productively to their families, communities and nations.

235. The Commission emphasized that population policies and programmes had a crucial role to play in the enhancement of the role and status of women. It felt that women played an equal role in the development process and that the improvement of their status and the extent to which they could make decisions in their families would be crucial to population growth and the quality of life. The Commission urged all members and associate members to ensure that women's concerns were addressed in all population and development activities and programmes.

236. Regarding population data and policy research, the Commission emphasized the importance of the collection, analysis and dissemination of population data and information in supporting the national development processes. However, considerable scope remained for improvements in the timeliness and quality of the data and information made available for policy, planning and programme implementation purposes.

237. The Commission emphasized that to improve understanding of the linkages between population, the environment and sustainable development, information systems, databases and research capabilities in the region needed to be established or improved. It was suggested that more in-depth studies be undertaken in the following areas: (a) strategies for creating awareness of emerging issues for the purpose of developing policies and implementing programmes; (b) the complex and synergistic interrelations of population trends, poverty, resource use and the environment; (c) the dynamics of the growth of metropolitan centres and the implications of that growth for poverty, the environment, human development and the quality of life; (d) the implications of ageing for policy and programme development; (e) sociocultural and other factors that fostered the adoption of family planning, including identifying ways to make those programmes self-sustaining; (f) the interrelations between the role and status of women in the context of population and development; and (g) other related issues, such as AIDS.

238. While considerable progress had been made in achieving demographic goals at the national level, in some areas fertility, infant and child mortality and maternal mortality remained high. In order to improve family planning/maternal and child health (FP/MCH) services for the population, the Commission stressed that there should be regular monitoring of programme performance at the local and national levels through improved FP/MCH management information systems and periodic demographic surveys.

239. The Commission recognized the importance of developing national skills and capabilities through strengthening human resources development programmes in order to address emerging population issues and to respond effectively to the recommendations of the Bali Declaration. It also emphasized the need to improve local, national and regional level capabilities in the utilization of data and information for better programme planning, monitoring and evaluation. The Commission recognized the role that had been played by the secretariat and recommended that it should continue to undertake such activities through the continued provision of technical assistance and the organization of training courses to build national capabilities.

240. The Commission recognized the considerable progress made in the development of national population information systems. It urged the secretariat to continue its efforts to strengthen and extend those national programmes within the framework of the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (POPIN).

241. The Commission also recognized the importance of TCDC in improving the exchange of information, experience and expertise. In view of the effectiveness of the TCDC approach, the Commission emphasized that more effort should be made by both the secretariat and the developing countries to implement, on a TCDC basis, a wide range of activities covering areas such as family planning, maternal and child health, development of population policy, and modern methods for collecting, analysing and disseminating information.

242. The Commission, in confirming its commitment to the spirit of the Bali Declaration, urged the secretariat to play an enhanced role in creating awareness of the implications of the Bali Declaration, in periodically monitoring its implementation and in conducting reviews of the progress made.

243. The Commission recommended that, in the light of the Bali Declaration, the secretariat should continue to play an advocacy role. It requested the secretariat to disseminate information through regular publications and other appropriate means concerning the challenges faced by the countries of the region in implementing the Bali Declaration.

244. In view of the increased seriousness of population issues on a global scale, the Commission recognized the importance of the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development, to be held at Cairo in September 1994. The Commission endorsed the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, which would constitute the main Asian and Pacific regional input to the International Conference. The Commission expressed the hope that the spirit of the Bali Declaration would be reflected in the outcome of the International Conference.

245. The Commission noted with concern the redeployment of UNFPA-supported regional advisers and the prospect of a significant reduction in extrabudgetary resources, particularly from UNFPA, for the Asian and Pacific regional population programme of the secretariat. None the less, the Bali Declaration gave the secretariat an expanded mandate to assist the members and associate members in their implementation of the relevant recommendations. The Commission therefore urged UNFPA, international donors, Governments and the United Nations to increase their allocation of human and financial support so that the secretariat could respond effectively in assisting the Governments in implementing the Bali Declaration.

246. The Commission adopted resolution 49/4 on population and sustainable development: goals and strategies into the twenty-first century.

Committee on Statistics, eighth session

247. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/896 and Corr.1, the report of the Committee on Statistics on its eighth session, and E/ESCAP/895 on major issues arising from the deliberations of the Committee on Statistics. The Commission expressed appreciation of the documentation and endorsed the report of the Committee, which comprised a comprehensive summary of the issues in statistics and government computerization facing countries in the region. It also endorsed the draft programme of work in statistics for the biennium 1994-1995, and noted that owing to the limited availability of resources there was a heightened need to set priorities.

248. The Commission commended the secretariat on its role in promoting the use of statistics and enhancing the statistical capabilities in the countries of the region. The strengthening of that role, if possible by increasing staff resources, would be beneficial to all statistical organizations in the region. The recommendation of the United Nations Statistical Commission that ESCAP should continue to function as the focal point for statistical development activities in the region had given added importance to the Committee on Statistics. The view was expressed that the Committee should strive for a more coordinated approach that would minimize duplication with other institutions undertaking statistical development and information-gathering activities.

249. The Commission emphasized that statistics were a vital tool for national economic and social development planning. It noted that demands for statistics were becoming more pressing, as data for informed decision-making were needed in a wide range of sectors of society. As it was a goal of many countries to achieve economic growth with distributive justice while paying due attention to underprivileged groups, the provision of comprehensive data had become vital for effective policy action and programme formulation, as well as for monitoring the progress made.

250. The Commission observed that a number of developing countries of the region had developed statistical capabilities to meet many of their data requirements; however, areas remained in which countries needed to develop and improve their expertise. The growing demand for data as a consequence of the priorities assigned to the three major developmental themes of regional economic cooperation, poverty alleviation, and environment and sustainable development meant that national statistical offices would have to enhance their capabilities for developing additional national and subnational statistics and for improving the quality and timely availability of the data. As more and more countries were taking an interest in assessing the current state of the environment and the characteristics and determinants of poverty, as well as in monitoring the progress achieved in response to

policy action, greater burdens were being placed on statisticians to make available the relevant data.

251. In the field of economic statistics, the Commission welcomed the adoption by the United Nations Statistical Commission of the revised United Nations System of National Accounts (1993 SNA). It noted that the 1993 SNA was accepted as a single international standard for the integration of economic statistics. It expressed appreciation of the flexibility explicit in the Statistical Commission's recommendations that countries should adopt SNA in accordance with their needs and conditions. It noted with interest that China had developed its own national accounts system, which had been based primarily on SNA but had retained features of MPS (System of Balances of the National Economy) to suit its requirements. China would improve its system further and enhance the international comparability of its data. The Commission welcomed the fact that the 1993 SNA had foreseen that satellite accounts would be compiled utilizing concepts that differed from those in the central framework.

252. Noting that the United Nations Statistical Commission had attached great importance to the role of the regional commissions in the implementation of the 1993 SNA, the Commission expressed appreciation of and endorsed the proposal of the secretariat to organize, subject to the availability of funding, a two-week seminar in 1993 as a prelude to the implementation of the 1993 SNA. It urged the secretariat to continue to provide support for the implementation process, including the organization of meetings and workshops at regional, subregional and country levels. That would help to improve national accounts statistics, facilitate a greater level of uniformity in data compilation, and enhance the international comparability needed for a comparative analysis of countries.

253. The Commission took note of the activities undertaken by the secretariat in organizing phase VI of the International Comparison Programme (ICP). It expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for its continued provision to the secretariat of the services of a price statistics adviser, on a non-reimbursable loan basis, to assist ICP-participating countries in the region.

254. Noting the importance of statistics on trade in services and of service statistics in general, the Commission urged the secretariat to undertake activities for their development and improvement. That was considered especially important since services had been included in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Among other areas of statistics, the Commission considered establishment surveys as well as statistics on the informal sector to be important. The secretariat was urged to mobilize resources in anticipation of requests for assistance in those areas from members and associate members.

255. The Commission recognized the importance of up-to-date, reliable, complete and accurate population data for planning sustainable development. The Commission was informed that, owing to the absence of extrabudgetary funding, for the first time in many years little developmental work was being conducted by the secretariat in the area of demographic statistics.

256. The Commission noted the importance of data on the situation of women relative to that of men, in particular data reflecting women's participation in and contributions to social and economic development. The Commission was informed of the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in some countries of the region, which aimed at strengthening the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics on the situation of women relative to that of men. Those activities included consultations among users and producers of statistics on gender issues and the production of a popular statistical booklet on gender issues in each country. The Commission noted with interest that ESCAP and UNIFEM were considering a similar initiative, covering seven countries of the region, in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held at Beijing in 1995.

257. Recognizing that there was a dearth of systematically collected quantitative information on poverty in most of the developing countries of the region, the Commission felt that statistics relating to poverty needed to be given priority attention. To develop statistics on poverty, countries needed to focus on defining poverty in clear-cut and reasonably acceptable terms, taking into account factors such as the quality of life, nutrition levels and difficulties in satisfying basic needs. Defining the poverty line remained a problem. The secretariat was urged to develop a set of indicators on poverty that could be used in the countries of the region. The Commission emphasized that there was a need for sharing country experience and exchanging information on the development of poverty statistics. It expressed its appreciation and endorsement of the secretariat's initiatives to improve statistics relating to poverty, including the proposed project in that area being considered for extrabudgetary funding. It noted with satisfaction that in 1993 the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) had introduced some training courses on statistics for poverty alleviation. A number of delegations stated that their countries were ready to cooperate with the ESCAP secretariat in that important field.

258. The Commission noted that the members and associate members were increasingly recognizing the importance of environmental protection and the need for environmentally sound and sustainable development. Environment statistics were indispensable for understanding and monitoring environmental problems in the countries and areas of the region. However, the necessary expertise to collect and compile environmental data was lacking in most of the developing countries of

the region. The Commission felt that the ongoing secretariat activities directed towards the development of environment statistics were therefore timely and appropriate, and that the secretariat should play a coordinating role in the region. It commended the secretariat's plan to prepare an operational handbook to facilitate the collection of environmental data at the country level. The Commission welcomed the information that the Central Bureau of Statistics of Nepal was planning to organize jointly with the ESCAP secretariat a workshop on the development and improvement of environment statistics.

259. The Commission noted the growing interest of countries in environmental accounting. It heard with interest that the secretariat was designing a project on that. It was informed that work on the methodology of environmental accounting had been initiated in some countries of the region. The Commission noted that China had recently organized a workshop on environmental and resource accounting jointly with the United Nations Statistical Division. The Commission was informed that in the view of the United Nations Statistical Commission the first steps taken in that area should relate to physical accounting, leaving the more complicated questions of monetary valuation to a later stage.

260. The Commission noted the importance for members and associate members of the collection of energy statistics. It commended the recently published United Nations manual, *Energy Statistics: A Manual for Developing Countries*, which provided valuable guidance. The Commission urged UNDP to resume support for advisory services in energy statistics, which had been discontinued at the end of 1991.

261. The Commission strongly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics that the focus of the statistics subprogramme should remain on the enhancement of national statistical capabilities. It noted with appreciation the contributions made by the regional advisory services in statistics to the advancement of official statistical systems in the region. Many delegations reported that their countries had gained invaluable experience, and expressed the desire that the delivery of regional advisory services in social, demographic and economic statistics, including energy statistics, should be continued and strengthened to help the countries of the region to develop and improve their statistical systems. The Commission noted with concern the decline in the number of regional advisers fielded by the secretariat.

262. Concern was expressed that some countries might not be covered by the advisory services provided by the newly established subregional UNFPA Country Support Teams, whose attention would be focused largely on UNFPA-funded projects. The Commission recommended that ESCAP and UNFPA should work closely together to establish an efficient, flexible system of advisory services from which the countries of the region could derive maximum benefit. The Commission recalled that the Committee on Statistics would evaluate the experience of the countries with the new arrangements.

263. The Commission noted the observation made by the Committee on Statistics that the national statistical offices in the central Asian republics were facing considerable difficulties and that they required support from other countries and international organizations. It was considered advantageous for those countries and other economies in transition to seek assistance from the secretariat, as ESCAP had no pressing operational requirements for data in any particular field; rather, its prime concern was to enhance national capabilities according to the priorities determined by the countries themselves. It was therefore felt that the secretariat should have sufficient resources and a critical mass of expertise to achieve that goal effectively.

264. The Commission strongly supported the secretariat's efforts to promote government computerization and the use of computing technology, which were viewed as important in the production of timely and reliable information, and hence in the strengthening of the planning and management capabilities of national Governments. The Commission noted with satisfaction the willingness of a number of countries to share their experience and expertise in software development and computer applications. Such cooperation should be promoted within the framework of TCDC and other modalities of cooperation.

265. The Commission endorsed the following important areas of work in government computerization, as identified by the Committee on Statistics at its eighth session:

(a) Expert group meeting to review computerization development in the public sector;

(b) Promotion of standards and coding systems for integration of government information systems;

(c) Establishment of national policies and strategies for development of government computerization.

The Commission noted that the secretariat would require bilateral as well as multilateral financial support to implement those activities.

266. The Commission observed the difficulty of retaining data processing staff in government departments and considered that development programmes in the field of computers should be intensified to address that problem. Training should cover both hardware and software for statistical applications, including analysis, forecasting, database management and data dissemination.

267. The Commission took note of the various regular statistical publications of the secretariat. It was mentioned that there was a need for more detailed, timely and reliable issuance of data. The Commission recalled the suggestion by the Committee on Statistics that international trade statistics could be published quarterly. Since publications could place heavy demands on resources, periodic review was considered necessary to ensure their continued relevance to user needs. The Commission endorsed the secretariat's plans to review its statistical publications.

268. With regard to responses by countries to questionnaires from international organizations, the view was expressed that technical assistance in terms of appropriate computer facilities would lighten the burden.

269. The Commission recognized that technical cooperation among the countries of the ESCAP region could be used to reduce disparities in statistical capabilities through the sharing of experience and information on new developments. TCDC had been employed successfully in the region in a number of statistical training programmes, such as those concerning sampling, household survey methodologies, and electronic data processing. To facilitate closer scrutiny of specifications in various countries of the region, bilateral visits had been organized for ICP officials. The Commission recorded with satisfaction that some delegations had stated that their countries were willing to share experience, knowledge and training infrastructure with regard to the development of poverty alleviation statistics and human resources development in household surveys and statistical computing. The suggestion was made that study tours to developed countries could be organized to enhance capabilities for data utilization in developing countries.

270. The Commission noted with gratitude that, since the forty-eighth session, the secretariat had received bilateral donor assistance for its activities in statistics from China, Japan, the Netherlands, and New Zealand. Multilateral assistance had been generously provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UNFPA, and in connection with SIAP, by UNDP. The Commission noted with appreciation that Australia would continue to consider favourably the provision of advice and assistance to developing countries in the establishment of statistical operations and the training of staff.

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, first and second sessions

271. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/897 and Corr.1, as well as E/ESCAP/898 and Corr.1, relating to the reports of the first and second sessions of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation.

272. The Commission commended the work of the Committee and its Steering Group. It endorsed both reports and expressed its firm and unequivocal commitment to regional economic cooperation. In deliberating on the programme of action for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment, the Commission stressed the importance of maintaining an open multilateral trading system and of drawing the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to an early conclusion, particularly since the region's dynamic growth was linked to free trade. Some delegations emphasized that there was a need for open regionalism, and that growing interdependence would necessitate closer cooperation in investment flows, technology transfer and skills development. Some delegations referred to the emerging trend towards regional trading arrangements and suggested that the implications of such arrangements would need to be investigated carefully, particularly with regard to their likely adverse diversionary impact on trade and investment in the Asian and Pacific region. With regard to policy on the expansion of intraregional trade and investment, some delegations stressed the increasing importance of trade issues relating to the implications of rules of origin, the new legislation consequent to the single European market, and the progress of trade liberalization. Some delegations recognized that arrangements restricting trade and investment flows needed to be abolished to promote regional economic cooperation and the effective operation of the trade-investment nexus. It was suggested that the harmonization of laws, with respect to intellectual property rights, for example, would be conducive to the stimulation of intraregional trade and investment flows.

273. The programme of action for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment, as endorsed by the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its second session, was endorsed by the Commission. The Commission also adopted resolution 49/1 on the implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment. The action programme was perceived as a bold, pragmatic and timely approach to the strengthening of growth in the region through an outward-oriented development strategy. Delegations drew attention to specific components of the programme of action. It was agreed that priority should be accorded, as suggested by the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, to studies on trade and investment flows in the region. The Commission noted that the studies, which should relate to policy at the macro-level, would have to analyse disaggregated flows and identify measures to strengthen intraregional trade and investment expansion as a vehicle for enhancing regional economic cooperation and development. The Commission emphasized that priority should be given to the requirements of the least developed and land-locked countries, as well as to those of the Pacific islands and the economies in transition. In particular, the

diversification of the economic ties, especially in trade, of those disadvantaged groups of economies to other parts of the region needed support through the programme of action.

274. The Commission expressed strong support for activities relating to the development of export-oriented small and medium enterprises. Some delegations suggested that the study should include resource-based industries and should investigate the possibility of subregional specialization of production as a basis for cost-efficient subcontracting of production to the small and medium enterprises in different countries by multinational firms. The Commission recommended that the findings of existing studies at the national level and by other regional institutions should be considered in implementing the small and medium enterprises development programme, and that regional trade fairs for the products of small and medium enterprises should be held at regular intervals.

275. With regard to the strengthening of the information base, the Commission recommended that the Regional Trade Information Network (TISNET) should be strengthened and that the proposed regional investment information and promotion service should be established. The Commission agreed that a strengthened regional database on trade, investment and technology transfer possibilities would be of particular benefit to the small and medium enterprises in the region.

276. The Commission emphasized that it was necessary to enlarge the scope of subregional cooperation. It expressed appreciation to the secretariat for directing attention to the possibilities for subregional cooperation in trade and investment in North-East Asia. It also expressed appreciation to the members concerned for their ideas on the expansion of cooperation in that subregion. The Commission recognized the initiatives by the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to liberalize trade within their subregions. It also recognized that subregional initiatives in trade should be consistent with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The Commission stressed the potential for the development of infrastructure and trade and investment linkages between subregions. It suggested that the secretariat should initiate studies to evaluate and assist in the identification of complementarities between subregions.

277. The Commission noted the emerging role of trade in services in international trade and identified that as an area in regional economic cooperation in which the secretariat could initiate useful work for policy planning purposes. It drew attention to the need for a regional database on trade in services, particularly with regard to trends in the financial services sector. The Commission recommended that the private sector should be involved in the implementation of specific activities within the programme of action, especially the study on foreign direct investment flows and the strengthening of cooperation between the national chambers of commerce and industry, which were the focal points in the private sector. Trade and trade-related environmental concerns were identified as an important area for the secretariat's attention, particularly as environmental norms might act as non-tariff barriers.

278. The Commission observed that the programme of action was of a continuous nature and therefore could not be put into a specific time-frame; moreover, the availability of resources would be a major determining factor of its implementation. The priority studies on trade and investment flows would be initiated immediately, with resources generously provided by UNDP, while the study on small and medium enterprises would be initiated as soon as resources became available. It was noted that as several activities under the programme of action had been included in the next biennial programme of work on regional economic cooperation, those should be in place by 1994-1995.

279. With regard to the future priority areas of work under the programme of action, the Commission suggested that issues relating to the development of infrastructural facilities for trade and investment, technology transfer, electronic data information in trade and transport, the harmonization of customs procedures and of quality standards at the regional level could be taken up as resources became available. The Commission recommended that in view of the limited availability of resources, services that were easily available elsewhere should not be duplicated in the implementation of the programme of action. The Commission noted that ongoing national initiatives, when they related to activities under the programme of action, could reinforce efforts at the regional level.

280. One delegation made a reference to paragraph 43 of document E/ESCAP/925, concerning the theme topic study, which it considered relevant to the discussions on the programme of action. The delegation queried the validity of the secretariat's finding that the region's developed economies (Australia, Japan and New Zealand) were observed to be less protective than their counterparts in Europe and the United States of America, as a consequence of which they had continuously restructured their industries in line with their dynamic comparative advantage. However, two other delegations strongly supported the observation made by the secretariat in the study.

281. The Commission noted with appreciation that UNDP had already made a commitment to fund, under the fifth intercountry programme (1992-1996), some of the activities envisaged in the programme of action. The Commission also noted that UNDP had requested all agencies executing its trade and investment programme to involve regional and national institutions of excellence in Asia and the Pacific in programme implementation, such as in the conduct of studies and

research. The Commission further noted the statements made by the representatives of the Asian Clearing Union, the Asian Reinsurance Corporation and the International Pepper Community on their operations.

Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries

282. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, first session, as contained in document E/ESCAP/899. It endorsed the report, and welcomed the establishment of the Special Body as a significant step in directing attention to the special problems of that group of countries and in developing policies and programmes to accelerate the pace of their economic and social development. It urged active participation of all member countries, especially the least developed countries, in the work of the Special Body.

283. The Commission reaffirmed that the least developed countries held the primary responsibility for the formulation and effective implementation of national policies for their development. It welcomed the far-reaching economic, political and social reforms under way in many least developed countries. It recommended that those efforts should be continued and intensified and adequately supported by the international community.

284. The Commission noted that the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries had not been able to attain its main targets and that despite national and international efforts on behalf of those countries, their social and economic situation as a whole had not improved during the 1980s. At the time the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s was adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1990, there was a sense of optimism that the current decade would add renewed stimulus to the socio-economic progress of those countries. The progress following the Second Conference had been less reassuring. The uncertain global economic environment, the growing difficulties faced by the least developed countries with regard to exports, the high debt burden, natural disasters, internal strife and ethnic conflict, together with the added burden of large masses of refugees and displaced persons in some least developed countries, had blighted their development prospects. The slow rate of growth of GDP in the Asian and Pacific least developed countries provided a sharp contrast to the dynamism displayed by many other developing countries in the region.

285. The Commission observed that in the light of the formidable difficulties facing the least developed countries, there was a clear need for international assistance to supplement their development efforts. Thus, the unpromising outlook for overseas development assistance (ODA) flows was a matter of considerable concern. ODA resources played a vital role in the development of human resources and in building social and physical infrastructure in the least developed countries, which in turn was essential to their domestic resource mobilization programmes, in marshalling private initiative to promote growth, and in attracting foreign direct investment. Donor countries were therefore urged to increase substantially their assistance to the least developed countries in line with the Programme of Action for the 1990s. It was emphasized that the special needs of the least developed countries should be given priority consideration in responding to competing claims for resources in the post-cold war era.

286. The Commission noted that many least developed countries had undertaken trade liberalization measures as part of their economic reform programmes to improve efficiency and macroeconomic management. However, to be effective those measures would have to be matched by greater access of the products of least developed countries to the markets of their developed and developing country trading partners. It was hoped that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations would bring substantial benefits to the least developed countries and would be completed early and successfully.

287. The Commission was of the opinion that most least developed countries were not fully aware of the possibilities of the generalized system of preferences (GSP) schemes, and were not able to exploit fully the special treatment offered to them. Hence, that represented an important area in which national workshops as well as regional or subregional training seminars for a group of least developed countries, such as those in South Asia or in the Pacific, could be organized, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding. The secretariat was urged to expand its activities in that field to take account of the special needs of the least developed countries and to initiate follow-up action, so as to enable the least developed countries to make effective and full utilization of the special privileges extended to them by the various GSP schemes.

288. The Commission expressed support for measures to enhance intraregional flows of investment to promote the development of least developed countries. Bridging the information gap between the investor and the prospective recipient least developed country was a prerequisite for attracting foreign investment. It noted that the proposed regional investment information and promotion service could play a useful role in identifying investment opportunities and partners and in encouraging an inflow of foreign investment into the least developed countries.

289. The Commission noted that the establishment of a centre for research on the least developed countries, at Dhaka, as recommended by the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held at Dhaka in February 1990, could also contribute to bridging the information gap. Note was taken of the statement by the representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at the first session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries that, at the request of the Government of Bangladesh, UNCTAD would explore the possibility of providing assistance for a feasibility study on the establishment at Dhaka of a research centre on the least developed countries. It was observed that a smaller research unit, possibly located in the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (ESCAP/POC) in Vanuatu or the University of the South Pacific at Suva, would facilitate the conduct of research and the dissemination of information on matters of special concern to the Pacific island least developed countries.

290. The Commission recognized that environmental deterioration was a matter of concern for the sustainable development prospects of the least developed countries and that there was a clear need to integrate environmental concerns into their development process. There was an acute shortage of expertise and know-how on analysing the environmental impact of various economic policies and projects, which required urgent attention. The secretariat was urged to render technical assistance in that vital area on a priority basis.

291. The Commission expressed strong support for enhancing economic and technical cooperation (ECDC/TCDC) between the least developed and other developing countries in the region. It noted with appreciation the various assistance programmes implemented by the developing countries under ECDC/TCDC arrangements and welcomed the assurances given by those countries to expand such assistance, particularly to the least developed countries. It requested the secretariat to initiate appropriate follow-up action in close cooperation with prospective donor developing countries to explore further opportunities for ECDC/TCDC assistance to the least developed countries within the framework of "cluster meetings", as envisaged in the Programme of Action for the 1990s. An appeal was made to the developed countries to extend generous financial assistance for organizing "cluster meetings", while the secretariat was urged to make further efforts to seek extrabudgetary resources for those meetings.

292. The Commission adopted resolution 49/8 on strengthening assistance to least developed countries.

293. The Commission endorsed the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1994-1995, for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. The view was expressed, however, that although the positive moves taken by the secretariat to develop a tangible programme of work for the least developed countries were welcomed, the programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995 should reflect more adequately the national priorities. Attention was drawn to the relatively low proportion of Professional work-months allocated to operational activities, which were considered more directly relevant to the most pressing needs of the least developed countries.

294. It was noted that, as mandated by the Commission, the next session of the Special Body was scheduled for 1995. That was also the year in which the secretariat was expected to conduct a major mid-term review at the regional level of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the 1990s, which would serve as the regional input to the global review exercise. The Commission endorsed the proposal that the next session of the Special Body should be focused on the mid-term review. It appealed to donor countries for generous funding of activities related to the mid-term review and called upon all member States to make special efforts to ensure the greater effectiveness and success of the next session of the Special Body.

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

295. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/900 and Corr.1. It commended the secretariat on the speedy organization of the first session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, and on the documentation prepared for the consideration of the Special Body at that session. The Commission expressed great satisfaction at the active participation of Pacific island countries in the deliberations, which had been thought-provoking and had contributed much to the successful conclusion of the session.

296. The report of the Special Body and the programme of work, 1994-1995, of the ESCAP secretariat on the Pacific island developing countries were endorsed by the Commission. The efforts by the Executive Secretary to forge increased linkages with regional and international financial institutions were welcomed.

297. Environmental protection, it was emphasized, was an important issue in the Pacific island subregion, and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, and Agenda 21 had raised great hope for the promotion of sustainable development. The Commission urged the secretariat to collaborate closely with other international agencies in the implementation of Agenda 21. It was reiterated that the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) should play a coordinating role in the preparation of a regional input for the first Global Conference on the Sustainable

Development of Small Island Developing States, to be convened in April 1994. In that connection, the Commission was informed of the forthcoming regional technical meeting to be hosted by the Government of Vanuatu from 31 May to 5 June 1993.

298. The Commission emphasized that prudent fiscal and financial policies were indispensable for stable growth, and that appropriate policy adjustments and reforms were crucial for the mobilization of both domestic and external resources for sustained development. With regard to foreign trade and investment, the Commission stressed the larger benefits to be derived from regional and subregional cooperation and the importance of closer relations between Pacific island countries and other developing countries, particularly those in East and South-East Asia.

299. The Commission reaffirmed its support for the substantive emphasis in the proposed programme of work, and the work proposals that had been made by the secretariat and endorsed by the Special Body. It appealed strongly to donors for generous contributions to implement ESCAP activities in the Pacific. That would enable the secretariat to implement as soon as possible the mandated work in favour of the 19 Pacific island countries and to undertake the follow-up required to identify other areas of work in which the many unique problems and needs of those countries could be addressed.

300. Many delegations summarized for the Commission the wide range of special development constraints confronting Pacific island countries owing to their smallness, remoteness, fragile ecology, and vulnerability to frequent natural disasters. Island economies were heavily dependent on a few primary commodity exports and had suffered in recent years from unfavourable external trade conditions. The acute lack of skilled human resources and infrastructural facilities had been creating additional problems that hindered domestic efforts to foster social and economic development.

301. Against the backdrop of rising global and regional demands for resources and assistance, donor countries and agencies were urged by many delegations to maintain and, where possible, enhance, as a matter of priority, their assistance to the Pacific. The Commission took note of the many areas in which technical assistance had been provided to Pacific island countries under various national schemes for ECDC/TCDC, and of the announced willingness to maintain and increase such technical assistance in the future. It was indicated that there had been some communication difficulties with parts of the Pacific island subregion. The secretariat indicated its availability to facilitate such communications on request.

302. Many delegations expressed concern at the recent decline in ESCAP activities in the Pacific. The long-felt need for increasing the representation of Pacific island nationals on the Professional staff of the secretariat was also emphasized. The secretariat gave its assurance that it would exert its best efforts to take into account those observations, within its various constraints and the relevant rules and procedures of the United Nations.

303. Appreciation was expressed for the practice of holding an informal consultative meeting between the Pacific island countries and the Executive Secretary and his senior colleagues. It was indicated that such a meeting facilitated the frank exchange of views and should be continued.

304. The Commission conveyed its appreciation to the Executive Secretary for the efforts made by him to implement the spirit of Commission resolution 48/9 of 23 April 1992 on strengthening ESCAP assistance to Pacific island countries, through a redeployment of additional resources to ESCAP/POC. It expressed its gratitude to the several donor countries for providing experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis and short-term ad hoc expertise in an effort to enhance ESCAP/POC capabilities. However, it also emphasized the need to strengthen ESCAP/POC on a more permanent basis. The Commission welcomed the Executive Secretary's announcement in the informal consultative meeting that, given the expected decentralization of resources from Headquarters, he aimed to increase the Professional advisory staff to 10 by the beginning of the next year. The secretariat was also urged to give due weight to the allocation of resources for work on Pacific island countries. The Commission indicated that it would follow those prospective developments with great interest.

305. The Commission was pleased that the ESCAP training and orientation programme, which had proved helpful to Pacific island countries, would be resumed in 1994, after a lapse of two years. It expressed deep gratitude to the many donor countries that had contributed to the Pacific Trust Fund. It noted with appreciation several additional contributions to the Fund and expressed hope for sustained donor support so that the Pacific Trust Fund could eventually operate on a self-financing basis.

306. It was emphasized by several delegations that the next session or future sessions of the Special Body should be convened at a location within the Pacific island subregion. Among other things, that would enable all participants from outside the subregion and ESCAP staff based in Bangkok to observe directly and better appreciate the many special development problems facing Pacific island countries. The secretariat, while generally welcoming that possibility, observed that since the convening of such meetings would involve additional costs to the secretariat, it would not be feasible to do so without extrabudgetary support for the proposal.

Selected issues in fields of activity of the Commission and reports on its regional institutions

307. In her opening statement, the Deputy Executive Secretary highlighted the major issues in various fields of activity on which the Commission's views were sought. The attention of the Commission was drawn to issues concerning: (a) the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002; (b) progress in the implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond; (c) problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region; (d) economic and technical cooperation among developing countries; (e) preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization; and (f) preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development.

308. The Commission also considered the reports on the following regional institutions: Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific, and Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

309. The Commission reviewed the issues in the various sectors, as reflected below.

Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

310. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/902, annex I of which contained the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region, and annex II, the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002. The Commission commended the secretariat on its effective work in formulating the Proclamation as well as the Agenda for Action.

311. The Commission was informed of the success of the high-level intergovernmental Meeting to Launch the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, held at Beijing from 1 to 5 December 1992, at which both the Proclamation and the Agenda for Action had been discussed, completed and adopted. The Commission urged all members and associate members to sign the Proclamation at the highest levels of government. At the same time, it adopted the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, for implementation by all members and associate members. The Commission adopted resolution 49/6 on the Proclamation and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002.

312. The Commission was informed of the many national, regional and subregional activities under way, in conformity with the Agenda for Action. Those activities were a promising start to the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002. A number of Governments had already joined as signatories, at the highest levels, to the Proclamation. Many others had indicated their intent to do so. Recognizing that people with disabilities were among the poorest and most vulnerable in most communities, the Commission stressed the moral obligation of all countries to work for the full participation and equality of people with disabilities in society.

313. The Commission emphasized the importance of follow-up to Commission resolution 48/3 of 23 April 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and the implementation of the Agenda for Action. It urged its members and associate members, in consonance with their national priorities, to develop national programmes of action within the framework of the Agenda for Action. Concerning that task, particular attention was drawn to the need to focus on the attainment of tangible improvements in the lives of people with disabilities. The secretariat was requested to continue its activities in support of national action in implementing the Agenda for Action.

314. The Commission commended the initiative of the China Disabled Persons' Federation to promote, in close cooperation with the Governments of ESCAP members and non-governmental organizations in the region, public awareness of the Decade and positive attitudes towards people with disabilities. To that end, the China Disabled People's Performing Arts Troupe had already embarked on a cultural exchange programme involving goodwill visits to countries in the region.

315. The adoption and implementation of a wide range of national policy measures in consonance with the Agenda for Action were referred to by various delegations. While some Governments were formulating regulations and establishing mechanisms to follow up recently enacted national legislation, others had introduced or were developing national policies in support of people with disabilities. The establishment of national coordination mechanisms, periodic surveys of the situation of people with disabilities and the registration of disabled persons for preferred access to services were mentioned as some of the means adopted by countries in the region to facilitate implementation of policy.

316. The Commission noted that areas covered by those policy measures included rehabilitation, education and barrier-free facilities, as well as services to facilitate communication between persons with disabilities and government agencies. Financial support for people with disabilities, extended in the form of increased budgetary allocations for small enterprise development, as well as

livelihood, education and medical subsidies, were among the policy measures being implemented in various countries of the region.

317. The Commission emphasized the importance of the promotion of employment among people with disabilities. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the close collaboration between ESCAP, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and organizations of people with disabilities, particularly in the convening, late in 1993, of a workshop on the role of those organizations in the development of national policies and programmes concerning the training and employment of people with disabilities.

318. Several delegations referred to the interest of their Governments in participating in regional cooperative endeavours relating to the implementation of the Agenda for Action. The Government of India offered to contribute to the Decade, within the framework of TCDC, its facilities and experience in the following areas: (a) training of professionals in the rehabilitation of people with visual, orthopaedic, hearing and mental disabilities, and research and development of service modules concerning those disabilities; (b) appropriate technology for the production of low-cost and high-quality assistive devices; and (c) rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in rural areas.

319. Concern was expressed about the need for continued attention to the prevention of avoidable disablement. Traffic accidents, poor perinatal care of mothers and infants, and misuse of drugs through ignorance were common causes of disablement in the least developed countries of the region. The Commission urged that international assistance should address those problems. It also urged that the highest consideration in budgetary priorities should be given to improving access to primary health care, community education and appropriate immunization, in order to prevent the avoidable disablement associated with factors such as malnutrition and environmental hazards, including water-related causes of disease.

320. The Commission highlighted the importance of close cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations in addressing disability issues. In that connection, it noted with appreciation the contributions of the Asia-Pacific Inter-organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns to the preparation and follow-up of the Agenda for Action.

321. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Australia, China, Hong Kong and the Republic of Korea for their generous financial contributions for Decade activities. The terms of reference of a trust fund for that purpose were being developed by the secretariat. Gratitude was also expressed to the Governments of China, Japan and Sweden for their financial assistance in support of the secretariat's activities to promote the Decade. The Commission commended the support extended to ESCAP by the Swedish Organisation of Handicapped International Aid Foundation (SHIA) in the convening of the ESCAP/SHIA Conference of Deaf People in Asia, held at Bangkok from 9 to 12 March 1993. The Conference, which had coincided with the beginning of the Decade, was the first-ever United Nations conference of deaf people.

Progress in the implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond

322. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/901 on progress in the implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat for that document and endorsed its findings and recommendations.

323. The Commission recalled that the objectives of the Social Development Strategy were the eradication of absolute poverty, the realization of distributive justice and the enhancement of popular participation. To ensure a comprehensive and multisectoral approach to the realization of those objectives, the Strategy emphasized that national action programmes, with regional support, should fulfil the following major functions:

(a) Intra-governmental and intersectoral coordination of social development policy, planning and programming;

(b) Targeting of specific social issues and disadvantaged social groups for priority attention;

(c) Training of personnel for the delivery of social services;

(d) Design of information systems and research programmes on social issues and on the policy responses required;

(e) Monitoring and evaluation of programme impact;

(f) Allocation of resources to permit effective programme implementation.

324. The Commission reviewed a number of national programmes and activities, under way or planned in selected countries of the ESCAP region, whose specific objectives were supportive of the aims and objectives of the Strategy. It also reviewed various measures being taken by the secretariat and other United Nations bodies and agencies in support of the aims and objectives of the Strategy.

325. The Commission noted that, since the adoption of the Strategy at the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held at Manila from 7 to 11 October

1991, many ESCAP members and associate members had taken action to bring their national social development policies and programmes into line with the aims and objectives of the Strategy. It was reported that the multisectoral integrated approach called for in the Strategy was being followed by several countries in the formulation of their national programmes of action for social development. The view was expressed that those countries which had not yet adopted the multisectoral integrated approach could expedite the introduction of such an approach to the formulation of national action programmes for social development by better "marketing" of the Strategy at the national level. The secretariat was requested to provide support measures in that regard.

326. The Commission acknowledged that while national policy and programme orientations were being adjusted to accommodate the objectives, themes and modalities of the Strategy, many national initiatives in support of the aims and objectives of the Strategy were already under way. Several delegations informed the Commission of such initiatives in their countries. The Commission welcomed those initiatives, which included the establishment of programmes on the following: poverty alleviation, family planning, enhancing the role of the family, social security reform, strengthening planning capacity and database management, strengthening non-governmental organizations for social welfare and development, strengthening disaster management, consolidation of strategies to combat drug abuse at the national and grass-roots levels, development of community-based rehabilitation of disabled persons, and establishment and strengthening of national coordinating bodies for social development. The Commission was informed that the Association of South-East Asian Nations had decided to discuss the Strategy at its forthcoming ministerial meeting in 1993; it was indicated that ESCAP might be invited to present the Strategy at that meeting.

327. The importance of regional measures in support of the formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes under the Strategy was emphasized. The Commission recalled that, in pursuance of its resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, its programme of work had been revised along thematic lines. Under the revised programme of work, starting with the biennium 1994-1995, social development issues would be covered under the thematic programme on poverty alleviation. The Commission observed that, since poverty alleviation was a principal objective of the Strategy, the revised programme should be able to accommodate readily the social development activities already under way, as well as those contemplated for future implementation within the framework of the Strategy.

328. The Commission felt that, among the areas of concern covered by the Strategy, priority attention might continue to be given to specific issues relating to health, education, disability and ageing. It recognized, in particular, the need for continued regional support of national efforts in the area of health, with special attention to the relation between poverty and drug abuse. The relation between drug abuse and AIDS was also referred to as an issue deserving increased regional attention, particularly within the context of poverty alleviation. Drawing attention to the importance of the social and economic dimensions of health issues, the Commission emphasized that preventive measures against preventable diseases such as poliomyelitis and AIDS would be far more cost-effective than curative measures, even if curative measures were available.

329. The Commission adopted resolution 49/9 on eradication of preventable diseases in the Asian and Pacific region as a component of social and economic development.

330. The Commission emphasized that there was a continued need for the provision of regional support for the development of national policies and programmes for disabled persons, the elderly and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. It recognized the need for regional support for, among other national initiatives, the development of self-help organizations, the application of guidelines on legislation to ensure the full participation and equality of disabled and elderly persons, the promotion of non-handicapping environments for disabled and elderly persons, and assistance in the development of comprehensive policies on lifelong preparation for old age and social security.

331. The Commission indicated that among other issues and activities warranting priority attention were the following: promotion of modalities for enhanced cooperation between NGOs and Governments; development of policies to strengthen the role of the family in society; enhancement of the participation of youth in development; promotion of functional literacy, particularly among girls and young women; provision of advisory services on the prevention of juvenile delinquency and youth crime; and enhancement of coordination and collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights.

332. The Commission recalled that, in its resolution 48/5 of 23 April 1992 on the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, it had requested the Executive Secretary to convene in 1994 a regional conference of senior government officials, concerned United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations to review and assess the progress achieved towards attaining the aims and objectives of the Strategy, with a view to revising it as might be called for in the light of experience and changing regional social conditions. It also noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992, had decided to convene a

World Summit for Social Development, to be held early in 1995. The Commission decided, therefore, that the regional meeting of senior officials should be renamed a regional ministerial conference in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development. The Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of the Philippines to host that ministerial conference at Manila in 1994.

333. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of Australia, China, France, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and Sweden; to UNDP, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and to Disabled People's International, the Swedish Organization of Handicapped International Aid Foundation and the Christian Conference of Asia for their generous support of ESCAP activities in social development.

Problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region

334. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/904 and Corr.1.

335. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's analysis of the major economic and social problems confronting the disadvantaged economies in transition in Asia and the Pacific. While the Commission strongly supported and welcomed the commitment of the disadvantaged economies in transition to establishing market economies, it urged those economies to sustain and, where appropriate, accelerate their reforms.

336. Although there was a consensus that the basic immediate economic problem facing the disadvantaged economies in transition was macroeconomic stabilization, the Commission observed that the disadvantaged economies in transition would also have to solve other economic problems in order to ensure a smooth transition to a market economy, including price and enterprise reforms. In addition, the Commission identified several other problems confronting the disadvantaged economies in transition. They included the lack of a proper competitive structure, the need to convert military facilities to civilian use and the problem of valuing enterprise assets for privatization.

337. The Commission noted that the economic problems facing the disadvantaged economies in transition were compounded by the closed nature of the trading system of those economies as well as the lack of transport and communications links with their market-oriented neighbours.

338. The Commission agreed that, in addition to economic problems, the disadvantaged economies in transition would have to deal with the social problems that were inevitably associated with market reforms and that might have a significant impact on the economic sectors of the disadvantaged economies in transition. Three major social issues that were likely to create considerable problems for those economies were the problems of unemployment and industrial relations, the social safety net, and the overall social protection of citizens in the transition to a market economy.

339. In view of the above problems, the Commission felt that it might be desirable to consider formulating an appropriate social policy to complement the radical changes caused by the transition to a market economy. In addition, the Commission considered various other measures that should be taken by the disadvantaged economies in transition, with appropriate assistance from ESCAP and concerned international agencies, within the framework of a comprehensive package of assistance that would address the major economic and social problems facing those economies during the difficult period of transition, with due regard to the unique features of particular countries.

340. The Commission requested the secretariat to work closely with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and other United Nations bodies and agencies, especially UNDP, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as non-United Nations agencies such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in formulating its activities in favour of the disadvantaged economies in transition. The Commission suggested that useful lessons might be learned from the experience of eastern Europe as well as subregional projects involving disadvantaged economies in transition, such as the Mekong River and the Tumen River projects. Given the disparate nature of the disadvantaged economies in transition, the Commission cautioned the secretariat to take the diversity among the disadvantaged economies in transition into consideration in formulating its broad strategy to assist those economies. The Commission agreed that while the disadvantaged economies in transition deserved assistance from the international community, they could also do a lot to help themselves, such as improving their management structure to improve their capacity to utilize aid more efficiently.

341. The Commission expressed appreciation for the services and various forms of assistance that the secretariat had given to the disadvantaged economies in transition in their efforts to achieve a market economy. The Commission took note of specific suggestions by several delegations for assistance and advised the secretariat to attend to them within the limits of the resources available to it. The Commission expressed its strong support for the continuation of the services provided by the secretariat in implementing its resolution 48/8 of 23 April 1992 on the problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region.

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

342. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/903 and Corr.1. The document contained four chapters covering the following: (a) impediments to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries; (b) strengthening the role of TCDC national focal points; (c) promoting the catalytic role of the secretariat in operational ECDC-TCDC activities; and (d) the role of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the ESCAP thematic programme of work.

343. In introducing the document, the secretariat drew the Commission's attention to the promotional and operational TCDC activities implemented by the secretariat in 1992 for the benefit of the developing countries, in particular the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition. Such activities were implemented through the generous financial contributions of the donor Governments and multilateral funding agencies, such as UNDP and UNFPA, to the ESCAP programme of work and, in particular, the contributions of the Governments of China, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund.

344. The secretariat also drew attention to the need for greater initiatives on the part of the developing countries, in particular the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition, to enhance and ensure the success of ECDC-TCDC activities. The countries were urged to place greater emphasis on TCDC and the use of the TCDC modality in their socio-economic development efforts and to provide adequate human and financial resources for the implementation of TCDC activities.

345. The secretariat expressed its readiness to assist in enhancing the capability and effectiveness of TCDC national focal points through appropriate activities, as well as to enhance its own in-house capacities to enable it to play a more effective catalytic role, especially with regard to supporting the operational TCDC activities of members and associate members. The secretariat requested other donor Governments and members and associate members to contribute to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund so as to enable the secretariat to expand its catalytic role for the benefit of all developing members and associate members. The least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition were again urged to provide the secretariat with a list of their needs, in order of priority and in specific areas of their interest, to facilitate the matching of such needs with the capacities available in other developing countries.

346. The Commission reaffirmed the usefulness and benefits that developing countries could derive from TCDC activities, and the contribution of TCDC to the enhancement of South-South cooperation and to the developing countries' efforts to achieve greater national and collective self-reliance. It noted with satisfaction the countries' statement of their strong and continuous support for TCDC activities. It expressed the view that ECDC and TCDC activities should be promoted within the framework of the needs and characteristics of the region. It also stated that, while the role of the secretariat and other United Nations agencies would be purely catalytic and supportive, the primary responsibility for initiating, financing, implementing and monitoring TCDC activities was with the developing members and associate members themselves, in line with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

347. The Commission welcomed the statements made by several delegations that they had been implementing TCDC activities within the framework of their own bilateral and multilateral programmes and utilizing substantial funds from their national budgets and bilateral sources, as well as from their UNDP country indicative planning figures (IPFs). It noted with satisfaction the numerous and varied operational TCDC activities, including the matching of needs and capacities, carried out by China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand on their own initiative to help the less developed countries and for their mutual benefit. One delegation stated that its country had initiated a special bilateral technical assistance programme for the disadvantaged economies in transition. Several delegations informed the Commission that they would continue to finance all travel and local costs related to TCDC activities implemented within the framework of their bilateral programmes. The Commission commended the secretariat on its promotional TCDC activities and its catalytic support for the implementation of TCDC operational activities. It urged the secretariat to continue its efforts to implement TCDC activities for the benefit of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, in accordance with Commission resolution 46/8 of 13 June 1990 on technical and economic cooperation among developing countries for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries.

348. The Commission recognized, however, that the lack of financial resources remained a significant constraint for some countries in the promotion and implementation of TCDC activities, particularly the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition. It noted that 10 per cent of the UNDP country IPFs or US$ 7.5 million, whichever was less, could be made available

for TCDC activities. The Commission urged developing members and associate members to utilize such resources, under their respective UNDP country IPFs, whenever appropriate, in implementing their operational TCDC activities. The Commission also urged the secretariat to continue to expand its catalytic efforts to assist those countries in need, particularly the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition through the utilization of the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund. The Commission urged the secretariat to mobilize additional funds from, for example, regional IPFs to promote TCDC activities.

349. The Commission recognized the vital role of TCDC national focal points in the promotion and implementation of TCDC activities. It noted that inadequate capacities of TCDC national focal points constituted a significant barrier to the utilization of the TCDC modality in the socio-economic development programmes and projects and in the implementation of operational TCDC activities of the countries concerned. It urged the developing members and associate members to strengthen the capacities of their respective TCDC national focal points and to exert efforts to expand the exchange of information, experience and expertise between and among the interested members. It stressed the need for greater use of the secretariat as a conduit for TCDC in the Asian and Pacific region and for closer contact between ESCAP as the regional focal point, and the respective national focal points. The Commission, in that regard, noted with satisfaction the successful outcome of the Workshop on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) National Focal Points of Governments in Asia and the Pacific Region, organized and funded by the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and held at Colombo from 5 to 7 April 1993. The Commission endorsed the proposal made by the secretariat that workshops of TCDC national focal points aimed at strengthening national capacities for the enhancement of TCDC should be held on a regular basis. Several delegations suggested that the secretariat should arrange for officials of TCDC national focal points, particularly those from the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition, to undertake study tours to exchange views and learn from the experience of the national focal points in the more advanced developing countries that had successful TCDC programmes. The Commission urged the secretariat to assist in organizing such tours.

350. The Commission supported the suggestion that the participating countries, as well as the secretariat, should undertake serious evaluation of each operational TCDC activity, including the formulation of follow-up measures based on the results of such evaluation, to ensure and enhance the effectiveness of the TCDC programmes and activities. The Commission noted the suggestion that the ESCAP developing members and associate members should decide upon practical and realistic measures to realize the short- and long-term common objectives of the region within the framework of TCDC and ECDC.

351. The Commission, while recognizing that the primary responsibility for TCDC rested with the developing countries themselves, urged the secretariat to enhance its catalytic role as a regional focal point for TCDC. It suggested that the secretariat could serve as an information centre, collecting and disseminating information about the needs and capacities of the developing countries, as well as making full use of the UNDP TCDC-INRES (Information Referral System) network. The Commission noted the suggestion that the secretariat should provide a handbook on operational guidelines on TCDC and information on how the focal points could better utilize the services of ESCAP in the implementation of TCDC activities.

352. The Commission noted with appreciation the financial assistance and cooperation extended to members and associate members by the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in organizing workshops for TCDC national focal points, and the extensive support provided by UNDP at the country, regional and interregional levels for TCDC activities through three sources of funds: country IPFs, regional IPFs and the Special Programme Resources. The Commission also noted with appreciation the main areas of UNDP support for TCDC activities: sensitization and information activities for the promotion of TCDC; support for TCDC focal point development through the organization of regional workshops; TCDC-INRES aimed at the updating and wider dissemination of information on developing countries' capacities; capacities and needs matching exercises; and intercountry workshops on TCDC for the exchange of information, experience, expertise and transfer of technology. The Commission noted with satisfaction the cooperation between UNDP and the secretariat in promoting TCDC activities in the Asian and Pacific region.

353. The Commission also noted with appreciation the statement of the representative of the International Pepper Community on the Community's continuing efforts to promote TCDC activities among its members in close cooperation with the ESCAP secretariat.

Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization

354. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/905.

355. The Commission recognized that urban growth would be the single most important social phenomenon in the final years of the twentieth century. Policies for urban development were closely related to those of

regional planning, particularly in the context of promoting the balanced development of small and medium-sized cities. Metropolitan areas, in particular, required vast investments in infrastructure to secure a reasonable quality of life and of the living environment. For those investments, resource mobilization constituted perhaps the most pressing challenge to Governments. In view of the limited availability of resources, it was essential to concentrate on critical issues and involve the private sector, communities and families in addressing basic shelter and urban problems, in both the planning and the implementation stages. Efficient management of urban centres required the promotion of community development and self-reliance and entailed more administrative decentralization. The Commission expressed satisfaction that those issues were to be addressed by the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization, to be held from 27 October to 2 November 1993.

356. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the preparations for the Ministerial Conference and complimented the secretariat on the selection of the main themes addressed in the draft report on the state of urbanization, which would serve as the primary background document of the Conference.

357. The Commission also expressed satisfaction with the issues chosen for inclusion in the documents to be submitted to the Ministers for their consideration. Those issues included (a) urbanization trends, patterns and impacts; (b) urban productivity; (c) responding to the challenge of urban poverty; (d) managing the urban environment; (e) the institutional framework for better management of the urbanization process; and (f) urban finance.

358. The Commission felt that the regional plan of action had the potential for becoming a significant document for policy initiatives at the regional level in the period following the Ministerial Conference, particularly as it would identify gaps where fresh initiatives were required based on a review of ongoing and planned programmes by the regional and international agencies.

359. The Commission endorsed the proposal to involve the different actors in urban affairs, as national Governments alone would not be able to deal effectively with urbanization issues. It was of the opinion that partnerships and cooperation with all actors needed to be developed, including local authorities, NGOs, community-based organizations, the private sector, research and training institutes and the media.

360. The Commission agreed that a steering committee could be established to ensure coordination of the deliberations of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials and the separate meetings of representatives of other groups. That committee, which would consist of the bureaux of the different meetings, would meet every evening after the day's deliberations to coordinate the programme for the following day. The Commission agreed that on the third day of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials, the representatives of the various groups should join the Senior Officials in the Asian and Pacific Urban Forum to discuss issues of common interest and the type of cooperation and contribution that each group could make to the common effort of addressing urban issues. The outcome of the joint deliberations could then be included in the report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials. The Commission endorsed the structure of the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization, the details of which were provided in the document under discussion.

361. The Commission noted with interest the initiatives under way among interested members and associate members of ESCAP to develop a draft declaration, which the Ministerial Conference might wish to consider for adoption. Such a declaration, when adopted, would have the potential for embodying the thrust of the commitments that it was hoped would be made at the Ministerial Conference.

362. Recognizing the need to coordinate the activities expected as a result of the Ministerial Conference with those already in progress, the Commission welcomed the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary to establish the Inter-organizational Task Force on the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization and its Follow-up Activities. The Commission was of the opinion that the Task Force should continue to function on a regular basis and should meet at least twice a year, or as required, following the Ministerial Conference.

363. The Commission recognized the scope for sharing experience among local authorities and noted with appreciation the role of ESCAP in the establishment of the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements, known as CITYNET. It expressed satisfaction with the type of activities that CITYNET had been undertaking, many with the support of ESCAP, and suggested that the "healthy cities" concept promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO) could be disseminated through CITYNET. The Commission felt that CITYNET had the potential for enhancing capacity-building at the national level and, as its membership expanded, would be able to play a significant role in implementing local-level action programmes. It was therefore suggested that CITYNET should encourage the formation of national-level associations of cities. The Commission noted with appreciation that UNDP support, as part of its overall urban management programme, would be available to CITYNET through ESCAP to carry on operational activities in the fifth UNDP cycle. The Commission noted with satisfaction the secretariat's commitment to continuing to provide professional and other technical assistance to CITYNET.

364. The Commission was pleased to note that several Governments had taken initiatives to address urbanization issues. The Republic of Korea, with 79.6 per cent of its population living in urban areas, had introduced several policy measures to promote distributed urban development, although many problems and challenges remained. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Republic of Korea to share its experience with other countries of the region and to participate actively in the Asian and Pacific Urban Forum and other activities in research, training and policy formulation.

365. Myanmar had experienced rapid growth not only of the two major cities, Yangon and Mandalay, but also of secondary cities with a population of over 100,000. To cope with the ever-increasing demand on urban infrastructure and services, Myanmar had taken a range of initiatives through public-private partnerships, which had yielded favourable results.

366. Bangladesh, while remaining a largely rural country, had experienced rapid urban growth. Urban poverty, most visible in sprawling slums and squatter settlements, was the most pressing problem, and a national policy for the urban poor was being developed. That policy would (a) provide access to shelter, work and other basic needs; (b) promote a holistic approach to slum improvement and poverty alleviation; (c) establish local institutions that addressed the needs of the poor; (d) promote the participation of the people in the development process; and (e) allocate land for employment-generating activities. Policy also needed to be developed to reduce the negative effects of urbanization on the environment.

367. A law introduced in China in 1980 to control the size of large cities and develop small and medium-sized cities had resulted in numerous small cities throughout the country and a better distributed labour force. The Commission noted with appreciation China's offer to share its experience in that field and its interest in participating in the urban management programme.

368. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance provided by the secretariat to India and Viet Nam in the field of subnational area planning. It also noted with appreciation that the Government of France had made available an expert on urban planning to support programmes in that field.

369. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Governments of France, Japan and the Netherlands for their generous contributions to defray the costs of preparing for and convening the Conference.

Preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development

370. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/907, which reviewed preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, and document E/ESCAP/926, containing the Seoul Statement on Empowering Women in Politics.

371. In its consideration of document E/ESCAP/907, the Commission noted with satisfaction the work that was being undertaken by the secretariat in preparation for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development.

372. The Commission noted that in its resolution 46/6 of 13 June 1990 on the integration of women in all aspects of development, it had requested the Executive Secretary to convene in 1993 a regional intergovernmental meeting to review the progress achieved in Asia and the Pacific in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990, had recommended that a world conference on women be held in 1995. That resolution was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/129 of 14 December 1990 on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. In the light of those resolutions, it was decided that the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development would be convened in 1994.

373. Regarding the venue and dates of the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, the Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government of Indonesia that the Conference be convened at Jakarta from 7 to 14 June 1994. The Commission recalled that it had endorsed at its forty-eighth session the time-frame and agenda of the Conference. The Conference would consist of a five-day meeting of senior officials and a two-day ministerial meeting. Consideration and adoption of a plan of action for the advancement of women in Asia and the Pacific would be the highlight of the Conference.

374. The Commission was informed that, as part of the preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, the secretariat had organized the Seminar on the Participation of Women in Politics as an Aspect of Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, held at Seoul from 18 to 20 November 1992. Over 100 ministers, members of parliament, academics and representatives of women's organizations from the region had participated. The Seminar had concluded with the adoption and signing of the Seoul Statement on Empowering Women in Politics. The Seoul Statement aimed to raise political awareness among women and promote their active participation as full partners in political life in the ESCAP region. The Commission endorsed the Statement and indicated that it should be included in the documentation and deliberations of the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development.

375. The Commission was informed that in preparation for the Ministerial Conference, ESCAP would hold a regional symposium of NGOs in November 1993. The symposium would obtain input from NGOs for a draft regional plan of action for the advancement of women, to be submitted to the Ministerial Conference for its consideration. The secretariat had initiated consultations with NGOs of the region in an effort to involve them fully in the preparations for and the convening of the Conference.

376. In view of the timing of the regional NGO symposium and the deadline for the preparation of national reports by ESCAP members and associate members, the Commission endorsed the proposal that an expert group meeting be convened in January 1994 in preparation for the Ministerial Conference. It was suggested that the experts invited to that meeting should be representative of the different levels of economic and social development and the cultural norms prevailing in the countries of the region.

377. The Commission stressed that the various documents to be prepared by the secretariat for consideration at the Ministerial Conference, including the regional overview of the progress made and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, should be analytical and should reflect the diverse situation of women in the region. It was suggested that, given the strong inverse relationship between the educational, employment and other aspects of the status of women, and fertility and mortality rates, it would be useful to undertake a detailed analysis of the effectiveness of population policies and programmes. One delegation cited the success of its country in reducing the population growth rate through progress in women's education and labour force participation.

378. In view of the significant role of NGOs in advancing the status of women, the Commission emphasized the importance of involving NGOs in the preparations for the Ministerial Conference. It was suggested that grass-roots women's organizations, in particular, should be involved fully in the preparations. It was stressed that the regional NGO symposium should be open to grass-roots organizations so that they could contribute to the preparation of the draft regional plan of action. It was proposed that Governments could include representatives of NGOs in their delegations to the Conference.

379. The Commission was informed that the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-seventh session, held at Vienna from 17 to 26 March 1993, had adopted a resolution on the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace. In that resolution, Member States were urged to initiate the preparation of national reports for submission to the regional commissions in time to serve as a contribution to the regional review and appraisal and to the secretariat for the World Conference as input for the global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. Taking the foregoing into account, the Commission agreed that the national reports on the status of women required as input into the documentation for the Ministerial Conference should be submitted to the ESCAP secretariat by November 1993. It also agreed that the guidelines for the national reports for the World Conference and the Ministerial Conference should be consistent, so as to facilitate the task of member States. The same national reports could be used in the preparation of the documentation for both conferences.

380. Stressing the importance of national-level activities in preparation for the Ministerial Conference, several delegations reported to the Commission that they had already initiated such activities. To prepare for both conferences, many Governments had set up national committees consisting of representatives of concerned ministries, NGOs, the private sector and independent experts. One delegation informed the Commission of its Government's plan to organize a national seminar to appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies with a view to providing input to the preparation of its national report.

381. The Commission urged that each ESCAP member and associate member should establish as early as possible a national preparatory committee for the Ministerial Conference to carry out the review and appraisal of implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

382. Regarding the regional plan of action for the advancement of women, to be considered for adoption by the Ministerial Conference, the Commission made the following observations:

(a) In conformity with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, the plan of action should have the themes of equality, development and peace as its underlying aims;

(b) The plan should be concise and aim at accelerating the full implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;

(c) While focusing on the issues of common concern to women of the Asian and Pacific region, the plan should duly reflect the differences in the problems faced by women in the various countries and areas of the region;

(d) The plan should take into account the needs and concerns of women in developing countries in general and, in particular, in the least developed countries. It should include attention to minority ethnic and cultural groups;

(e) The plan should contain specific targets and set out clear-cut steps and measures for realizing them.

It should cover the main tasks for the second half of the Decade to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the new concerns that women might be expected to face in the twenty-first century.

383. The view was expressed that the subject of women in development should be considered a priority item at the next session of the Commission so that adequate time could be devoted to a discussion of the draft plan of action.

384. The Commission requested the secretariat to ensure that the draft plan of action would be made available to all members and associate members well in advance of the Ministerial Conference, preferably by March 1994, so that Governments could provide their views on the plan prior to its submission to the Ministerial Conference.

385. The Commission emphasized the significance of publicity for the Ministerial Conference in order to create awareness about women's status and concerns in the Asian and Pacific region and to promote participation in the Conference. It was informed that the secretariat was making preparations, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information and United Nations bodies and agencies, to mobilize public interest in the Conference through the mass media. Press releases, posters, brochures, videos and other public information material on the Conference would be issued, if funds were available.

386. The Commission expressed appreciation of the generous financial support extended by the Governments of Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the Republic of Korea to the secretariat's activities in respect of women in development and to the preparations for the Ministerial Conference. It welcomed the statements of representatives of several United Nations bodies and agencies offering to provide support to the secretariat and ESCAP members and associate members in their preparations for the Conference. The Commission expressed appreciation to UNDP for conveying its intent to provide financial support to ensure adequate representation of the least developed countries at the Ministerial Conference.

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

387. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/906.

388. The Commission expressed appreciation of the work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and its publications, which were of great benefit to the members and associate members of the Commission, and all the more commendable in view of the difficult financial position that APCTT had faced during the past year.

389. The Commission observed that the Centre had successfully completed the project on technology transfer and management, with particular reference to clean technologies, funded by UNDP. The participating countries had greatly benefited from the implementation of the project, especially from the activities regarding the Mechanism for Exchange of Technology Information (METI). The Commission noted that the documents produced under that project and the proceedings of the UNIDO/APCTT Workshop on Environmental Considerations and Waste Recycling for the Chemical, Metallurgical and Engineering Industries in the Asian and Pacific Region, held at Manila in December 1991, had been informative and useful. Over 300 trainers in 10 countries had been trained under that project, thereby building a base for better utilization of the technology offers and requests generated. Based on the experience gained, the Centre had formulated METI phase II. The Commission strongly urged UNDP to consider funding that phase.

390. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress of the activities under the project on transfer of small-scale productive technologies and encouragement of entrepreneurship among rural women, which covered eight countries in the region. It noted that the project on popularization of solar cookers had proved relevant and useful.

391. The Commission commended APCTT on its progress in making the *Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor* self-supporting. It noted that in planning the theme topics, the Centre provided ample opportunity for many countries in the region to contribute valuable technical information to enrich the contents of the topics. It also noted that the Centre, with financial support from the Government of India, had launched the Value-Added Technology Information Service (VATIS), which included an update issued every two months in the area of biotechnology. VATIS would cover several subjects of immediate interest in the region. With regard to the preparation of the updates, the Centre would welcome requests from sponsors.

392. The Commission expressed satisfaction with Newtechmart '92, organized by APCTT in cooperation with China Technology Market Management and Promotion Centre and held at Guangzhou, China, in November 1992. The Commission expressed particular satisfaction with the impact that Newtechmart '92 had created, which had led to the signing of several memoranda of understanding between the technology exhibitors and the entrepreneurs. Such an event had opened up opportunities for large-scale technology transfer with China.

393. The Commission endorsed the recommendations made by the Governing Board of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology at its seventh session, held at New Delhi in November 1992. The Commission suggested that the following activities should be undertaken:

(a) In the context of legal provisions on packaging and environmentally compatible products, a study of technologies available and measures being evolved in developed countries should be commissioned, so that countries of the region could expand their trade without difficulty;

(b) An exhibition of important technologies developed in the region, with practical applications, should be arranged, possibly to coincide with the next Commission session in early 1994;

(c) The number of training programmes should be increased in technology transfer, particularly on cleaner technologies, small-scale industries, and the development of entrepreneurship skills for women;

(d) Technology compendiums of immediate relevance to the countries of the region should be prepared, thereby enhancing the availability of technology and the choices for those countries;

(e) Further work should be undertaken and assistance provided to members in the areas of technology policy and planning.

394. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Germany to provide the Centre with a Director and a sizeable programme package for three years. However, the main responsibility for institutional support still rested with the members and associate members. Realizing the difficult financial position of APCTT, the Commission urged members and associate members to pay their regular contributions on time at established threshold levels of US$ 15,000 for developing countries and US$ 1,000 for least developed countries.

395. The Commission observed that, in compliance with its recommendation at its forty-sixth session in 1990, the secretariat was working on a programme to establish an endowment fund for APCTT. The amount of US$ 5 million proposed for the fund would provide a base for the long-term institutional support of APCTT and should supplement the regular contributions of the members concerned. To build up the fund, some members and associate members could consider making yearly contributions of a reasonable amount over a period of time. The Commission expressed appreciation of the offer of the Government of China to give positive consideration to participation in the endowment fund scheme. It directed the secretariat to seek ways and means for other public and private sector organizations, institutions and foundations to participate in the endowment fund.

396. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the basic construction of the new office building for APCTT had been completed and that the Centre would start operating from New Delhi in July 1993. The relocation of the Centre to New Delhi would induce members to make enhanced contributions, on a regular basis, for the institutional support of APCTT.

397. Several countries and donor agencies reaffirmed their commitment to continue to provide programme support for useful projects that reflected the needs of the members of APCTT.

398. The Commission welcomed the close cooperation of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity with APCTT in some joint programmes concerning transfer of telecommunication technologies in the region. It also welcomed the cooperation offered by WASME in providing technological input to the small and medium industries in the region.

399. The Commission expressed appreciation to UNDP and UNIDO, and the Governments of Germany, Japan, India and the Netherlands, as well as other donors, for their generous financial support of APCTT.

400. The Commission, in accordance with article 9 of the Statute of APCTT, elected Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam as members of the Governing Board for the period 1993-1996, in addition to India, which as host country would continue as a member of the Governing Board.

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

401. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/908 and Corr.1, the report on the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT Centre), covering the implementation of the Centre's programme, management, administration and financial status in 1992. The Commission endorsed the report and expressed satisfaction with the progress and achievements of the Centre's activities during 1992.

402. The Commission expressed the view that CGPRT crops and agriculture had continued to attract interest in many developing countries of the region. With economic growth and the resultant income increase in the region, food consumption had changed, thereby affecting CGPRT crops and agriculture. CGPRT crops were grown predominantly by small farmers, often in upland, marginal and environmentally fragile areas, and were the main source of their income and employment. The development of CGPRT crops was therefore important for achieving sustainable and equitable growth.

403. The Commission commended the achievements of the Centre in 1992 and suggested that the Centre should further strengthen its efforts to provide useful information and advice, as well as to give researchers

and policy makers opportunities to exchange knowledge and experience, so as to respond to the needs and priorities of developing countries. The Commission noted that in the course of programme implementation, the Centre had come to establish itself as a regional coordination centre in close collaboration with national research systems and other partners. It commended the Centre on its cooperation with regional and international agricultural research and development institutes and organizations.

404. With regard to the achievements of the research and development activities of the Centre in 1992, the Commission was informed that the Centre had engaged in three projects that addressed issues faced by CGPRT small farmers, such as diversification, the role of women, and income and employment generation. Some delegations expressed their interest in collaborating with the Centre in areas such as research and development, market development, post-harvest technology transfer, sustainable development of upland agriculture and agricultural diversification, with regard to CGPRT agriculture.

405. In human resources development activities, the Commission was informed that the Centre had organized one workshop and one seminar in 1992, with a total of 41 participants from nine members and six agencies. In addition, in April 1993, a seminar had been held on upland agriculture in Asia, with the participation of some 30 senior researchers, research managers and policy makers from different parts of the region.

406. The Commission was informed about the publications and other information activities of the Centre, and expressed satisfaction with the considerable progress of both the regional and the national statistical databases for CGPRT crops. Databases for six countries had been completed or were close to completion. Some delegations stated that more training activities and databases were needed.

407. The Commission was informed that the Governing Board, at its eleventh session, had approved the Strategic Plan for the CGPRT Centre in the 1990s and Beyond. The Commission noted with appreciation the effort of finalizing the Strategic Plan and endorsed its content, including the thematic approach, in the light of new developments and emerging needs in regional agriculture. The Strategic Plan should provide the Centre with direction for its future activities and with a new stimulus for expansion. The Commission stressed that both financial and human resources would have to be mobilized to put the Strategic Plan into practice.

408. The Commission was informed of the staffing situation of the Centre. It noted the emphasis the Board placed on strengthening the Centre's Professional staff, and expressed appreciation to the Governments of France, Indonesia, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, as well as to the Canadian University Services Overseas for providing experts. The Commission was informed that discussions were in progress with several members regarding posting additional experts to the Centre. Some delegations stressed the importance of posting experts from developing members to the Centre in order to strengthen its professional relations with its partners.

409. The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the generous contributions of members and donor agencies to the Centre, including increased or new contributions from several developing countries. The following had provided the Centre with financial and other assistance in 1992: Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Commission of the European Communities. Several delegations stated that they would consider making new or increased contributions.

410. The Commission expressed concern about the Centre's fragile financial base and stressed that new or increased contributions by members and associate members were needed to strengthen it. The Commission noted the appeal by the Board for contributions of institutional resources from members and associate members at a minimum threshold level at least, or at a higher level, according to the resources of the individual countries. Two delegations expressed the view that the institutional cost should be borne by participating countries, especially beneficiary countries, on the basis of which programme funds would be provided and expanded. The Commission also noted the recommendations of the Board regarding the mobilization of the programme resources. The Commission urged members and associate members, particularly the developed countries, as well as donor agencies, to increase their contributions to the Centre's programme.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

411. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/909. It endorsed the 1993 programme of activities of SIAP as outlined in the document. It noted with satisfaction that phase VI of the project had been finalized and an agreement to that effect had been signed by the concerned parties.

412. The Commission recognized the services provided by SIAP, noting that since its establishment in 1970 it had trained over 4,800 official statisticians from the region. It also recognized that the capability of national statistical offices had to be continuously improved through training. In view of the increasing demand for statisticians in the region owing to devolution, new policy initiatives and consequent expansion of statistical activities, the Commission requested SIAP to expand its programmes of training.

In particular it mentioned the need to train statisticians to provide support to programmes targeted at poverty alleviation, the protection of the environment and gender-based planning. The Commission also recognized the need for training courses to be conducted on human development indicators, trade and service statistics, establishment surveys, statistics on the informal and unorganized sectors, energy statistics and forecasting techniques for planning.

413. The recent adoption by the United Nations Statistical Commission of the revised SNA brought with it a requirement to orient and train statisticians in the new system. The Commission recognized the need to bring greater awareness of management practices to senior official statisticians of national statistical offices and welcomed the programme of workshops on managing national statistical services in the 1990s to be conducted by SIAP in collaboration with ESCAP.

414. The Commission emphasized the importance of analysing and interpreting data collected in censuses and surveys. In that regard, it expressed appreciation of the initiative taken by the Institute in the conduct of a new course on analysis and interpretation. It urged SIAP to expand such training. The Commission stressed that higher-level staff in national statistical offices needed to develop their skills in order to analyse and interpret data and assist in the resolution of policy issues. The Commission recognized the need for timely dissemination of statistical findings to users and requested the Institute to train statisticians in the techniques of data dissemination.

415. The Commission noted the importance of providing training in statistical computing, including instruction in the use of software for statistical analysis. It also noted that training capacity in the region needed to be developed in view of the rising demand for statisticians. The Commission therefore requested the Institute to expand the training of trainers, to prepare manuals and other printed training materials and to produce audio and video materials to support and develop national training capability.

416. The Commission requested the Institute to make a special effort to assist in developing the capability of national statistical offices in least developed and land-locked countries, and in countries with economies in transition.

417. While noting that SIAP, with UNDP support, had increased significantly the annual number of country courses conducted, the Commission urged the Institute to expand that programme, since it was cost-effective and responded well to the specific needs and requirements of each country.

418. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the activities of SIAP since its establishment and strongly requested the continuation of the Institute's activities after its sixth phase. Noting that the sixth phase would end in March 1995, the Commission expressed the view that SIAP should be constituted on a more permanent basis. The parties concerned were urged to begin consultations as soon as possible with the objective of providing a durable institutional framework for the Institute.

419. The Commission expressed its gratitude for the support in cash and in kind provided to SIAP by members and associate members. Given the urgent need to expand the Institute's programmes, the Commission urged those already contributing to SIAP to increase their support, while requesting other beneficiaries of SIAP programmes to make contributions to the Institute.

420. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the host country, Japan, for the support it was giving to the Institute through financial and in-kind contributions and through the award of training fellowships. It also expressed gratitude to UNDP for the valuable assistance being extended to SIAP in the sixth phase for the statistical training component of a programme to develop human development indicators, to be undertaken in collaboration with ESCAP. The Commission also expressed appreciation to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the continuing provision of short-term lecturers on a non-reimbursable loan basis, and to various international organizations for their cooperation and assistance in the various training programmes of the Institute.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas

421. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP), transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/910).

422. The Commission was informed that CCOP activities for the past year had been expanded from the original objectives in the exploration and assessment of hydrocarbon and mineral resources in offshore areas. The current focus had included among its top priorities the assessment of the environmental implications of global and regional changes, the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development and the management of natural resources, as well as technology transfer and training.

423. The Commission noted that the major activities carried out in the past year had been grouped under three programme areas: energy, minerals and the coastal zone. The energy sector had continued with its work on oil and gas resource management to produce the

Time-Slice Map Series and the Play Atlas. An exploration promotion seminar was planned to be held in Norway in 1994. Remarkable progress had been made on the heat flow map project during the past year. The mineral sector had concentrated its efforts on the application of computer technology to map compilation and interpretation of geological and geophysical data. In the coastal zone sector, there had been several training courses, workshops, data collection and advisory missions related to applied geosciences and coastal zone management organized and conducted by the CCOP technical secretariat.

424. The Commission commented with appreciation on the activities of CCOP. Its useful achievements had resulted from its realistic and practical activities related to transferring technology in the exploration of natural gas and petroleum in member countries. The Commission expected that CCOP would maintain the pragmatic and realistic scope of its activities so as to enhance the technological capacity of member countries in the future.

425. The Commission observed that CCOP, as an intergovernmental organization, had played an important role in the development of geological-geophysical and mineral exploration activities in offshore areas. It attached great importance to those activities, particularly in research into the sustainable development of the energy, mineral and coastal zone sectors, in technology transfer and training. The Commission expected that CCOP would continue to play an important role in regional cooperation and called upon member countries and cooperating countries to support CCOP activities through the provision of financial and substantive programme support.

426. The delegation of Indonesia informed the Commission that Indonesia had successfully hosted the ESCAP/CCOP/LEMIGAS Seminar on Removal and Disposal of Obsolete Offshore Installations and Structures in the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf, held at Jakarta from 25 to 28 May 1992. It had been attended by 61 participants including resource persons and research institutions, petroleum companies and various ESCAP and CCOP member countries. It also announced that it would host the thirtieth CCOP annual session, in Bali, Indonesia, from 9 to 16 November 1993.

427. The Commission noted with appreciation the strong commitment of the CCOP member countries, the support of its cooperating countries and the continued close cooperation with ESCAP.

Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

428. The Commission had before it the summary of activities of the Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin (the Mekong Committee) during 1992 and plans for 1993, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/911). It noted the progress achieved by the Committee in the past year.

429. The representative of Japan urged early resumption of the membership of Cambodia in the Mekong cooperation framework and informed the Commission that Japan had extended 4.17 billion yen to Cambodia for food production and infrastructure, as well as electricity and medical services. He reiterated the importance of the Mekong cooperation framework and the policy dialogue among the riparian countries to develop the strategy in the integrated development of the region. Japan had contributed US$ 432,000 in cash to the Secretariat of the Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin (the Mekong Secretariat) in the 1993 fiscal year. Japan commended the ongoing efforts of UNDP towards strengthened Mekong cooperation among riparian countries.

430. The representative of France informed the Commission that his country was happy with the process of restructuring the Committee and its Secretariat, undertaken at Kuala Lumpur in December 1992, and with the spirit of cooperation shown by the riparian countries. He announced that France would, as of 1993, make a contribution equal to that made in 1992 and would in future give priority to studies on transport and agriculture.

431. The representative of the Republic of Korea announced the support of the Republic of Korea for the Mekong Committee, with a contribution of US$ 400,000 to the Ya-Soup multipurpose project in Viet Nam and the provision of one agricultural expert to implement the project.

432. The representative of the Netherlands praised the success of the four (and eventually six) States participating in the dialogue on regional cooperation, which had been strongly supported by UNDP. The Netherlands would like to see an early achievement of the new framework for Mekong cooperation. In addition to the ongoing projects, the Netherlands would extend further support and was considering new projects.

433. The representative of UNDP stated that UNDP had organized a donor consultation in December 1992, with the attendance of the four riparian countries, which had brought a renewal of financial commitments to the development work programme in the lower Mekong Basin. UNDP had been requested to facilitate an intergovernmental dialogue to establish a future framework of Mekong cooperation. A constructive and creative dialogue among the four riparian countries had begun. UNDP had recently approved a new programme of assistance amounting to approximately US$ 3 million.

434. The representative of China expressed the readiness of China to take part in the Committee's activities as an observer.

Typhoon Committee

435. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/912).

436. It was informed that the twenty-fifth session of the Committee had been held at Zhuhai, China, from 8 to 14 December 1992, and had been another significant step towards closer cooperation between its members.

437. The Commission was informed that over the previous year the Typhoon Committee had achieved considerable progress in the meteorological, hydrological, disaster prevention and preparedness, and training and research components of its work. It noted that the Committee had appealed for the allocation of adequate manpower and other resources for work on natural disaster reduction. The Commission urged UNDP to reconsider and to provide funding support for the activities of the Committee so that the Committee's valuable work on natural disaster reduction could continue at the same pace as in the past. The representative of UNDP stated that, after many years, programme support to the Committee had come to an end. He indicated that funding support could be provided through some country projects and new regional activities for cooperation.

438. The representative of Japan informed the Commission that a world conference on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction would be held in Yokohama, Japan, in May 1994, and that Japan would continue to support the activities of the Committee. The representative of China announced a number of meetings and workshops to be held in China during 1993, particularly on the meteorological component, and stated that some funding could be made available to support participation in those activities. The representative of China also stated that apart from its regular annual contribution of US$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee trust fund, an amount of 200,000 yuan renminbi (Y) would be provided to support Committee activities in China. The Commission expressed its appreciation to China and Japan for their continuing support of the work of the Committee and appealed to bilateral donors for funding of project activities and support for TCDC exchanges.

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

439. The Commission had before it the report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC), transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/913).

440. The Director of APDC informed the Commission that in July 1993 the Centre would complete a decade as an intergovernmental entity, which had been made possible by the active support of the member Governments and donor agencies.

441. Referring to the activities of the Centre during 1992, the Director informed the Commission that 16 projects had been undertaken, 6 funded by UNDP and 10 by other donor agencies and countries. The Centre had received US$ 750,923 for the programme activities, of which UNDP had contributed around 37 per cent. The major bilateral donors to the Centre were Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden, as well as the Ford Foundation and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). Projects were carried out in the seven programme areas of APDC: energy planning, industrial development, information technology, poverty alleviation, public management, regional cooperation and women in development. Some of the programmes had achieved a high level of functional integration in research, exchange of experience, training and information dissemination. In addition, APDC had issued 15 new publications.

442. An important component of the Centre's activities was the development of elaborate network systems; by the end of 1992, 188 institutions from 33 countries, including 10 from outside the region, had been associated with the Centre's networks.

443. Reporting on the financial status of the Centre, the Director informed the Commission that the funds available for 1992 had amounted to US$ 3 million, an increase of 22.2 per cent over 1991, mainly because of the increase in the host Government's contribution. In addition, the host Government, Malaysia, had provided additional grants for upgrading the Centre's facilities.

444. The Director emphasized that APDC was a regional institution owned and governed by its member Governments, and its sustainability was dependent on their continued support. Over the years, APDC had grown substantially in programme and donor diversification, but it still faced the constraint of finding adequate institutional finance for the Centre. The Director remarked that according to the APDC charter all countries and territories within the ESCAP region were eligible for membership of the Centre. APDC had extended invitations to Bhutan, Macau, Mongolia, Myanmar, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu to participate in its activities, and the Centre was looking forward to their positive response.

445. The delegation of China stated that there was excellent cooperation between China and APDC. APDC was in an important position to promote economic cooperation in the region. It was felt that in the light of the rapid economic growth in China, future cooperation with APDC through the promotion of joint activities would be very important. Among the various activities of the Centre, emphasis was placed on its

training programmes, which had benefited a large number of professionals from both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

446. The representative of UNDP informed the Commission that although UNDP no longer provided any institutional support to APDC, its programme support to the Centre would be intensified in the near future.

Programme planning

Draft programme of work, 1994-1995

447. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/914 on the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1994-1995, and document E/ESCAP/915 on the follow-up of the implementation of Agenda 21 at the regional level in relation to environment and sustainable development.

448. The Commission noted that in drawing up the six subprogrammes within the framework of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, the secretariat had taken account of the development requirements of the region as a whole, as well as the special needs of groups of countries such as those in transition to a market economy, and the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of the thematic approach. It noted that the two committees and special bodies that had met during 1993 had reviewed the proposed activities for the biennium 1994-1995 relating to regional economic cooperation, statistics, and the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. It welcomed the incorporation of the new approach in the proposed activities.

449. The Commission appreciated secretariat efforts to consolidate its activities into sharply focused areas, in particular the positive approach taken to promote regional economic cooperation through enhanced intraregional trade and investment. It stressed that higher priority should be accorded to those areas, as well as to macroeconomic policies and mineral resources development. It agreed that although the secretariat would continue to make the necessary adjustments in its programme of work for a smooth transformation into a full-fledged thematic programme, redeployment of adequate resources from within the United Nations system to ESCAP was essential and justified because of the enlarged membership of the Commission and its increased responsibilities. The Commission was informed that the Russian Federation was a recipient of UNDP assistance. It noted that participation of the Russian Federation would be possible in the operational and technical activities of ESCAP, depending on the provisions of the relevant UNDP-funded projects executed by ESCAP.

450. The Commission noted a request from the Russian Federation for inclusion under subprogramme 2, environment and sustainable development, in the programme of work and priorities, 1994-1995, and within the limits of the available resources, of a study on the assessment of the economic and mineral potential of coastal and offshore areas of North-East Asia to promote investment and to expand intraregional trade in mineral commodities. The secretariat was requested to expand the geographical scope of its projects on natural hazards mapping and monitoring systems by including the far east of the Russian Federation. The Commission took note of the problems of deforestation facing a number of countries in the region. It expressed appreciation of the secretariat's proposed activities in that critical area.

451. The space applications programme was viewed as playing an important role in the coordination of national policies on space technology applications, which would enhance socio-economic development and regional cooperation. The Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of China to host at Beijing in 1994 the ministerial conference on space applications, as envisaged in the programme of work. It also welcomed the offer by the Government of Pakistan to host the first preparatory meeting of directors of national remote sensing centres and programmes in 1993. The Commission adopted resolution 49/5 on the regional programme on space applications for development.

452. The Commission felt that human resources needed to be developed, particularly in those countries moving away from a centrally planned economy towards a more dynamic market system, as well as in the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. It stressed the importance of such activities as trade, transport and communications, industrial and technological development, agriculture and rural development, and mineral and water resources development.

453. The Commission expressed concern about the extent of poverty in the ESCAP region and considered as well-targeted and appropriate the activities proposed under subprogramme 3 relating to poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. It supported the proposed programme activities in favour of disadvantaged groups, particularly rural women and youth, disabled persons and the elderly. It accorded high priority to those and a number of other activities, particularly under subprogramme 1, regional economic cooperation. It stressed the importance of statistics as a fundamental element in development programmes of countries in the region and in the intersectoral thematic activities of ESCAP.

454. The Commission decided that output 3.1(ii)(3), Intergovernmental meeting on the implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond (1994), should be

modified to Regional Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (1994). Similarly, output 3.1(4), Report on the intergovernmental meeting on the implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond to the Commission (1995), should be modified to Report to the Commission on the Regional Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (1995). In addition, output 3.1(20), Report to the intergovernmental meeting on the implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond (1994), should be modified to Report to the Regional Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (1994).

455. The Commission adopted the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1994-1995, as provided in annex I to the present report.

456. The Commission stressed the importance of effective inter-agency coordination for establishing complementarity in the work of regional and multilateral organizations in order to avoid unnecessary duplication. In supporting the objectives of the proposed course of action in the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1994-1995, closer cooperation, coordination and joint programming with other United Nations programmes and agencies were emphasized, especially with reference to the subprogramme on environment and sustainable development. In particular, it noted that activities relating to the environment had been proliferating in various programmes and projects within the United Nations system. It was of critical importance to ensure optimum use of the existing level of resources and to make the maximum effort to utilize the accumulated expertise of the regional institutions. The Commission noted that in pursuance of its resolution 47/7 of 10 April 1991 on the integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific, a feasibility study on the financing of projects and programmes related to the environment, including the activities of Agenda 21 in the Asian and Pacific region, was being carried out by ADB, and that the findings of the study would be discussed at the ADB/ESCAP meeting on the regional funding mechanism, scheduled to be held at Bangkok in June 1993. It expressed the view that the study should stress the need for efficient utilization of the existing funding mechanism, including the Global Environment Facility.

457. The Commission noted with satisfaction the success of an expert group meeting on environmental management of coastal tourism development, hosted by the Government of Indonesia and held in Bali in March 1993, and stressed that follow-up would be needed on the implementation of the guidelines. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host another meeting on sustainable development of tourism in fragile ecosystems in line with the implementation of Agenda 21 in the Asian and Pacific region and requested the secretariat to develop the project document accordingly.

458. The Commission endorsed in principle the framework for promoting follow-up of the implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992, as outlined in document E/ESCAP/915. The Commission recognized that ESCAP, as a regional commission, was mandated in Agenda 21 to play a leading role in promoting and coordinating regional activities to follow up the Conference in Asia and the Pacific. It reaffirmed that the spirit of global partnership created at Rio should serve as the basis for common endeavours towards sustainable development in the region.

459. The Commission endorsed the framework of regional action for sustainable development as recommended by the ESCAP/UNDP High-Level Meeting on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Kuala Lumpur from 15 to 19 February 1993, and expected that it would be properly reflected in the future programme of work of ESCAP. It directed the secretariat to prepare a plan of action for the implementation of Agenda 21 based on that framework, for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

460. The Commission stressed the importance of according priority to Agenda 21 issues for implementation in the ESCAP region. In view of resource constraints, the Commission accorded high priority to the development of management tools and methodologies for integration of environment and development; the promotion of pollution-control technologies and methods, particularly through technology transfer to developing countries; the development of databases and the periodic assessment of the state of the environment; the sustainable development of tourism; a mutually supportive trade and environment regime; and assessment of ways and means to strengthen intraregional cooperation in energy production, utilization and conservation and in remote sensing. The Commission also gave high priority to the interdisciplinary approach to integrated management of water and land resources; coastal and marine management; and management of the atmospheric environment, including issues related to greenhouse gas emission.

461. The Commission emphasized that the implementation of Agenda 21 in Asia and the Pacific should be one of the main thrusts of regional cooperation. The Commission, in commending the efforts of the secretariat in establishing the Regional Network of Environment and Economic Policy Research Institutions and the Regional Working Group on Marine

Environment and Oceanographic Studies, recommended that those mechanisms should be used extensively in the implementation of Agenda 21 activities in the ESCAP region. The Commission suggested that the secretariat should consult the Commission on Sustainable Development on the format to be used in reporting to the Economic and Social Council and to the Commission on Sustainable Development on the implementation of Agenda 21 and should follow the cluster of items selected for discussion. In emphasizing uniformity in reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development from the regional and national levels, the Commission recommended that the findings and deliberations of thematic committees and other committees should also be appropriately included in the secretariat's report to the Economic and Social Council and to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

462. The Commission was informed by the representative of UNDP that at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development UNDP was called upon to focus on capacity-building to implement Agenda 21. To that end, UNDP had created a new facility named Capacity 21. UNDP was also a managing partner of the Global Environment Facility, funds from which were allocated in the ESCAP region for the development of least-cost greenhouse gas emission reduction plans, and marine pollution control. The representative of WHO commended the secretariat on establishing the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development, which would ensure cooperation and coordination among various agencies and promote joint activities. The representative of the South Asia Cooperative Environmental Programme (SACEP) informed the Commission of the close cooperation between the Programme and ESCAP in a wide range of activities on environment and sustainable development, through the Inter-agency Committee. Appreciation was expressed regarding the continued collaboration between ESCAP and various organizations for the implementation of programmes of Agenda 21 in the ESCAP region.

Review of the implementation of the programme of work, 1992-1993, and proposed programme changes for 1993

463. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/916, E/ESCAP/917 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/918/Rev.1 and E/ESCAP/919.

464. The Commission endorsed the secretariat report on the implementation of the programme of work, 1992-1993, as contained in document E/ESCAP/916. The Commission noted that in compliance with the Commission's earlier decision, the secretariat had successfully made an analytical assessment of the implemented activities for the biennium 1992-1993, determining in more precise terms the rate of implementation and resource utilization. In stressing the importance of timely delivery of outputs to members and associate members, the Commission commended the secretariat for preparing, for the first time, such a concise document, which greatly facilitated an examination of programme performance. One delegation suggested that the secretariat could also prepare a short report on the implementation of the programme of work, reflecting comparative data not only for the current year and the previous years but also for early years.

465. In endorsing the proposed programme changes for 1993 as presented in E/ESCAP/917 and Corr.1, the Commission noted that several important events had occurred and had been taken into account in proposing the necessary adjustments in the programme of work and priorities. They included, *inter alia*, the recommendations arising from consideration of the ESCAP programme by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the recommendations emanating from the deliberations of its own subsidiary bodies and ministerial meetings and conferences held in 1992. It took note that the special needs of such groups as children, the elderly and disabled persons were recognized in the proposed programme changes. The Commission urged the secretariat to involve non-governmental organizations and private sector organizations in providing the necessary services to enhance the support of Governments to those groups.

466. The Commission approved the tentative calendar of meetings, 1993-1994, as contained in document E/ESCAP/918/Rev.1. The Commission's attention was drawn to the relatively large number of scheduled meetings, particularly in the category of "Other group activities" which were subject to change according to the availability of extrabudgetary resources. Any change arising from donors' decisions regarding funding for those operational activities would necessarily affect the date and the venue of the meetings and might even cause cancellations.

467. A number of delegations expressed appreciation for the types and variety of meetings proposed in the calendar. It was hoped that the disadvantaged economies in transition would be able to participate more actively in and benefit from the large number of meetings, seminars, training workshops and symposia planned by the secretariat. It was noted that the special needs of the disadvantaged economies in transition required extension of advisory services to be provided by the senior regional adviser, particularly in the critically needed area of human resources development.

468. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/919. It took note of the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session in 1992 and the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992. A number of delegations referred to the programme implications of those resolutions and decisions on the Commission's programme of work. The delegation of Malaysia

informed the Commission that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/106 of 14 December 1990 on the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and related activities, Malaysia had observed in October 1992 the International Day for the Elderly. A National Committee had been set up to plan and implement a programme of action ensuring the protection of elderly people. The secretariat was encouraged to strengthen its programme activities in those important areas.

Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

469. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/920 and Corr. 1, and E/ESCAP/921 and Add.1.

470. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the extrabudgetary resources available to ESCAP for the implementation of its technical cooperation activities in 1992 had amounted to US$ 19.51 million, a decrease of US$ 5.75 million, or 23 per cent, from the 1991 level. The decrease had been basically due to the reduction in funding of ESCAP technical cooperation projects by UNDP, from US$ 11.51 million in 1991 to US$ 5.42 million in 1992.

471. With regard to the sources of extrabudgetary resources in 1992, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the United Nations had provided US$ 9.23 million, or 47.34 per cent, and bilateral donors and developing member countries together had contributed US$ 9.62 million, or 49.33 per cent. He expressed appreciation to all of the donors for making such generous and invaluable extrabudgetary contributions, which had significantly enhanced the secretariat's capability to render technical assistance and to implement technical cooperation activities for the benefit of ESCAP developing members and associate members.

472. The Executive Secretary noted that despite the substantial increase in recent years in the demand by members and associate members for technical cooperation activities owing to the enlargement of the membership of the Commission, the emergence of the disadvantaged economies in transition, new regional initiatives in the field of economic cooperation, and the urgency of environmentally sound and sustainable development, the level of extrabudgetary assistance from bilateral donor countries and members and associate members for activities under the approved programme of work had decreased during the past two years, from US$ 8.64 million in 1990 to US$ 6.98 million in 1991 and US$ 6.87 million in 1992. In appealing for increased extrabudgetary contributions for the approved programme of work, he also noted that the establishment of joint cooperation funds between ESCAP and developing members, along the lines of the China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects and the Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund, could significantly enhance the implementation of many programme activities. He expressed the hope that more developing countries, particularly those which had experienced rapid economic growth during the past 10 years, would favourably consider establishing such cooperation funds for the mutual benefit of the developing members themselves.

473. The Executive Secretary reminded the Commission of the financial constraints faced by the three regional institutions, APCTT, the CGPRT Centre and SIAP, as well as by RNAM. He expressed appreciation to the host countries of the regional institutions and to developing members for making voluntary contributions for institutional support, and to the Government of Germany for its generous offer of substantial institutional support for APCTT. He urged that the least developed countries consider US$ 1,000 as a minimum contribution and that other developing countries contribute at least US$ 15,000 to each of the regional institutions and to RNAM. In addition, delegations might consider providing in-kind contributions, in particular experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis, to those institutions.

474. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation of UNDP and UNFPA funding in 1992, which had significantly contributed to the success of many activities undertaken by ESCAP for the benefit of members and associate members. Since the fifth intercountry programme cycle had entered its second year, he urged UNDP to consider expediting the finalization of programme details as well as specific activities, including financial outlays, that would be implemented by ESCAP.

475. In referring to the five specific objectives in support of the country programmes of the UNFPA-supported programme in the Asian and Pacific region, as contained in document E/ESCAP/921, he drew the attention of the Commission to the need for strengthening national capabilities in demographic analysis and information dissemination to support effective policy formulation and evaluation. In the absence of funding from UNFPA for activities relating to demographic statistics in 1992, he urged that donor countries pay greater attention to the funding of such regional activities. He also drew the attention of the Commission to the implementation of the UNFPA Country Support Team approach. That approach had necessitated the transfer of UNFPA-funded regional advisers based in ESCAP to the UNFPA Country Support Teams and had affected ESCAP capability to respond directly and readily to the demand for technical assistance in the field of population and associated statistical areas. Since the Country Support Teams had not covered all members and associate members of ESCAP, he expressed the hope that the system would be further refined to ensure the availability of advisory services on request to all developing members and associate members of ESCAP and to take into account

the role played by ESCAP as a facilitator in the delivery of technical assistance irrespective of the sources of funding. Noting the likely reduced level of funding by UNFPA for ongoing and new ESCAP project proposals in 1993, he emphasized that funding would need to be supplemented from other sources for the ESCAP regional population programme and related data collection activities.

476. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation had provided for 10 regional adviser posts for the biennium 1992-1993, 2 of which had been located at ESCAP/POC. He also informed the Commission that in response to Commission resolution 48/8 of 23 April 1992 on problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region, a regional adviser on macroeconomic management and economic reform had been appointed in December 1992 with the existing resources under the Programme. In response to Commission resolution 48/9 of 23 April 1992 on strengthening ESCAP assistance to the Pacific island countries, the secretariat had proposed in the programme budget proposals for the biennium 1994-1995 the inclusion of three additional regional advisory posts for ESCAP/POC. He noted that the ongoing decentralization exercise at United Nations Headquarters might benefit ESCAP through redeployment of some interregional and other advisory services, which, if realized, would further strengthen the capability of ESCAP to respond to the increasing demand of members and associate members for technical assistance and advisory services.

477. The Executive Secretary expressed confidence that the Governments would continue to render unflagging support to ESCAP activities. He therefore hoped that the results of the pledging exercise would not only reaffirm the commitment of members and associate members to the ideals and purposes for which the Commission had been established, but also lead to the narrowing of the resource gap currently faced by ESCAP in carrying out its mandate.

478. The Commission took note of the following comments on technical cooperation activities and intended contributions announced for 1993.

479. **Afghanistan**. The representative of Afghanistan expressed full support for the activities of the programme of work, regional institutions and special projects of ESCAP. He emphasized the need to strengthen the capability of ESCAP through increased extrabudgetary contributions, to enable ESCAP to undertake technical cooperation activities for and render technical assistance to developing members and associate members, particularly the most needy countries. He expressed great concern at the decrease in extrabudgetary resources made available to ESCAP, despite the substantial increase in the demand by members and associate members for technical cooperation activities and technical assistance as a result of the enlargement of the membership of the Commission, and appealed to all multilateral and bilateral donors to contribute financial assistance. He indicated that, despite the difficulties faced by his Government, Afghanistan would continue to provide support to ESCAP at the same level as in previous years.

480. **Australia**. The representative of Australia announced that his Government would contribute $A 410,000, representing an increase of more than 35 per cent above its 1992 contribution. The fund would be used to support new and ongoing multi-year projects agreed to earlier with the secretariat. In addition, he announced that other Australian Government agencies would also contribute financial assistance for specific activities in the field of transport and communications, consumer protection and the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, amounting to approximately $A 120,000. The total extrabudgetary contribution to be made available by Australia to ESCAP in 1993 would thus amount to $A 530,000. He expressed satisfaction with the mechanism of semi-annual programme planning consultations with the secretariat, which had contributed to improving the targeting and impact of activities supported by his Government. The mechanism had also contributed to improving the coordination between the divisions of the secretariat in promoting extrabudgetary project proposals. He reiterated his Government's support for the semi-annual programme planning consultations mechanism and expressed the hope that it would contribute to further improvement in the implementation of the extrabudgetary programme.

481. **Bangladesh**. The representative of Bangladesh announced the following contributions:

	US$
APCTT	7,000
CGPRT Centre	1,000
SIAP	5,000
RNAM	6,000

He indicated that the contribution to APCTT of US$ 7,000 represented an increase of US$ 2,000 over the 1992 contribution. In addition, Bangladesh would contribute US$ 15,000 to APDC.

482. **Brunei Darussalam**. The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) SIAP	5,000
(b) Pacific Trust Fund	1,000

In addition, a contribution of US$ 10,000 would be made to APDC.

483. **China**. The representative of China announced the following contributions:

(a)	ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects:	Y 550,000
(b)	ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects (including US$ 40,000 for the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund and US$ 10,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund):	US$ 120,000
(c)	Regional institutions:	
	APCTT	US$ 15,000
	SIAP	US$ 21,000
(d)	RNAM	US$ 20,000

In addition, China would contribute US$ 50,000 to CCOP, US$ 50,000 and Y 30,000 to APDC, and US$ 12,000 and Y 200,000 to the Typhoon Committee. The total intended contribution in 1993 would thus amount to US$ 288,000 and Y 780,000.

484. **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**. The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced that his Government would contribute W 20,000 to the ESCAP programme of work in 1993.

485. **Fiji**. The representative of Fiji expressed her Government's strong support for the concept and objectives of ECDC-TCDC, for which her Government had established cooperative arrangements with other developing Pacific island countries, particularly in training activities. She emphasized that TCDC arrangements were considered a useful vehicle for the transfer of technology and know-how from Asian countries to the Pacific island countries. In that connection, she commended the activities undertaken by the ESCAP ECDC-TCDC services and encouraged ESCAP to continue to accord high priority to that important programme. She announced that her Government would contribute US$ 2,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund in 1993.

486. **France**. The representative of France announced that his Government would continue to provide support for ESCAP activities in the areas of transport and communications, environment, urbanization and human settlements, energy, and agriculture and rural development. Under the transport and communications sector, France would provide support for specific activities relating to maritime transport, in particular port management; railway transport, in particular the study of the Trans-Asian Railway; and air transport. In the field of environment, France would provide an expert to assist in the development of environmental national accounting. For the fields of urbanization and human settlements, France would provide expertise and support for activities within the framework of the subnational area programme. For the energy sector, France would provide an expert to assist in the development of accounting in the energy sector in the countries of the region and to formulate recommendations for more efficient use of energy. As regarded the agricultural and rural development sector, France would provide expertise and support for the establishment of a database on the different types of pesticides for use in agriculture and would also provide three economists for the CGPRT Centre. His Government would continue to support ESCAP/POC through the continued provision of the services of an expert in macroeconomics. He expressed the concern of his Government that inadequate emphasis had been given to priority activities in the fields of energy and sustainable agricultural development. He stated that the implementation of environment-related projects had been rather slow. He indicated that, bearing in mind that there was a new administration in France and that budgetary constraints might occur in the course of the year, he was not in a position to make a precise pledge at that stage. However, he would endeavour to ensure that the total level of extrabudgetary assistance to ESCAP in the above fields, as well as for projects of the trade sector that were under consideration, would be at the same level as in 1992, approximately FF 10 million.

487. **India**. The representative of India announced the following intended contributions for 1993:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	100,000
(b)	SIAP	15,000
(c)	RNAM	15,000

In addition, India would also contribute Rs 100,000 annually for the printing of a publication on value-added technology information services in biotechnology. He noted that the 1993 intended contribution for SIAP, amounting to US$ 15,000, represented an increase of US$ 5,000 over the 1992 contribution, in response to the proposal made by the Executive Secretary. In addition, he also indicated that his Government would contribute US$ 55,000 to APDC. He reiterated the support of his Government for the ECDC-TCDC activities of ESCAP.

488. **Indonesia**. While appealing for increased support of ESCAP activities and regional institutions from members and other donor countries as well as multilateral funding and financial institutions, the representative of Indonesia announced the following contributions:

(a)	APCTT	US$ 15,000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	Rp 105.7 million
(c)	SIAP	US$ 40,000
(d)	RNAM	US$ 15,000
(e)	Pacific Trust Fund	US$ 5,000
(f)	Participation of central Asian republics in the Commission session	US$ 5,000

In addition, Indonesia would contribute US$ 47,300 to APDC and US$ 50,000 to CCOP.

489. **Islamic Republic of Iran**. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed his Government's full support for the activities and the programme of work of ESCAP and announced that his Government would contribute US$ 15,000 for the programme of work in 1993.

490. **Japan.** The representative of Japan advised the Commission that his Government would continue to provide expert services on a non-reimbursable loan basis through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and to fund fellowship programmes under SIAP. In addition, the Government of Japan would continue to contribute US$ 2.2 million to the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and US$ 1.48 million to SIAP in 1993. The total cash contribution to the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and to SIAP in 1993 would thus amount to US$ 3.68 million approximately. The Government of Japan would also make in-kind contributions to ESCAP of approximately US$ 2 million in 1993.

491. **Kiribati.** The representative of Kiribati announced that his Government would contribute US$ 1,000 to SIAP and $A 2,500 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

492. **Malaysia.** The representative of Malaysia announced the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	10,000
(b)	SIAP	10,000
(c)	Pacific Trust Fund	1,000

In addition, Malaysia would contribute US$ 46,200 and M$ 440,000 to APDC.

493. **Maldives.** The representative of Maldives announced that the intended contribution of Maldives in 1993 would be at the same level as in 1992.

494. **Marshall Islands.** The representative of the Marshall Islands expressed appreciation to the ESCAP secretariat for its assistance and cooperation in the development efforts of the Marshall Islands. He expressed appreciation to the donor countries for contributing extrabudgetary funds, which had enabled ESCAP to undertake activities for the benefit of the needy countries of the region. He indicated that his Government would try to maintain the same level of support to ESCAP as in previous years.

495. **Mongolia.** The representative of Mongolia announced that the intended contribution of his Government in 1993 would be US$ 500 to SIAP.

496. **Myanmar.** The representative of Myanmar announced that the intended contribution of his Government to the ESCAP programme of work for 1993 would be US$ 2,000, as in 1992. He also announced that the intended contribution of his Government to the CGPRT Centre for 1993 would be announced to the secretariat at a later date.

497. **Nepal.** The representative of Nepal announced the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	2,492
(b)	APCTT	600
(c)	CGPRT Centre	500
(d)	SIAP	500

He noted that the intended contribution to APCTT for 1993, amounting to US$ 600, represented an increase of US$ 100 over its 1992 contribution. In addition, Nepal would consider increasing its intended contribution to APDC in 1993 over its contribution in 1992, which had been US$ 1,500.

498. **Netherlands.** The representative of the Netherlands announced that his Government would make cash contributions to ESCAP in 1993 of f. 3 million, equivalent to approximately US$ 1.7 million. He indicated that the contribution would be used to finance projects to assist developing members and associate members of ESCAP in dealing with priority issues in the area of economic and social development. He further indicated that all projects to be financed should take into consideration the impact of the implementation on poverty alleviation, on women and development, as well as their effect on the environment. He hoped to finalize the programming of Netherlands assistance for 1993 with ESCAP soon. He observed that the secretariat should give more emphasis to the level of participation of the countries involved in projects and should ensure that they were more involved in project formulation. He hoped that the secretariat would make more use of expertise from within the region and encourage the application of the TCDC concept. He urged that participating developing countries, as a reflection of their commitments to those regional institutions, should make up a greater share of the financial contributions towards institutional support costs of regional institutions in order to enhance their financial viability. He reiterated the full support of his Government for the programme of work of ESCAP.

499. **Pakistan.** The representative of Pakistan announced the following contributions, subject to parliamentary approval:

	US$
(a) APCTT	5,000
(b) SIAP	8,000
(c) RNAM	12,000

In addition, Pakistan would contribute US$ 30,000 to APDC.

500. **Papua New Guinea.** The representative of Papua New Guinea announced that his Government would contribute US$ 10,339 to the Pacific Trust Fund in 1993. He also indicated that the contribution had already been presented to the secretariat during the session.

501. **Philippines.** The representative of the Philippines indicated that appropriations for 1993 for ESCAP and other related institutions had already been made by his Government but would still require final consideration. He announced that his Government would inform the secretariat of its contribution for 1993 as soon as the appropriations had been finalized.

502. **Republic of Korea.** The representative of the Republic of Korea announced the following intended cash contributions:

	US$
(a) Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	400,000
(b) APCTT	10,000
(c) CGPRT Centre	15,000
(d) SIAP	20,000
(e) RNAM	20,000
(f) Participation of disadvantaged economies in transition in meetings of ESCAP	10,000

He also announced that his Government would continue to provide the services of seven experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis, six of whom would be assigned to the ESCAP secretariat and one to the CGPRT Centre. His Government would also provide a new expert on a non-reimbursable loan basis to ESCAP/POC in 1993. He indicated that his Government's contribution to APDC and CCOP would be announced later at their general conferences.

503. **Russian Federation.** The representative of the Russian Federation stated that his Government was considering renewing the practice of holding seminars in the Russian Federation for ESCAP members and associate members and offering scholarships, through ESCAP, to national nominees from ESCAP members and associate members for study in universities in the Russian Federation. He noted with satisfaction the recent efforts of countries of the North-East Asian subregion in promoting cooperation in trade, investment, transport, the environment, the implementation of market-oriented reforms and the joint exploration of natural resources. He stressed the important role of ESCAP in promoting cooperation in the subregion. He called upon the secretariat to seek the views of ESCAP members and associate members, as well as of relevant United Nations bodies, programmes and specialized agencies on ways and means of enhancing economic cooperation in that subregion. He encouraged the secretariat to devote part of its economic and social survey for Asia and the Pacific to the analysis of opportunities of enhancing economic cooperation in the North-East Asian subregion, as well as to other issues faced by the countries of the subregion.

504. **Singapore.** The representative of Singapore announced that Singapore would contribute US$ 5,000 to SIAP in 1993.

505. **Solomon Islands.** The representative of Solomon Islands indicated that his Government would communicate its confirmed contribution for 1993 to the secretariat at a later date. He also indicated that his Government would try to maintain its intended contributions in 1993 at the same level as in 1992, which had been US$ 1,000 to ESCAP/POC and US$ 1,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

506. **Sri Lanka.** The representative of Sri Lanka announced the following contributions for 1993:

	US$
(a) APCTT	5,000
(b) CGPRT Centre	10,000
(c) SIAP	5,000

In addition, Sri Lanka would contribute US$ 27,500 to APDC.

507. **Thailand.** The representative of Thailand announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	15,000
(b) CGPRT Centre	15,000
(c) SIAP	13,000
(d) RNAM	15,000
(e) Pacific Trust Fund	1,000
(f) Fund for participation of the disadvantaged economies in transition and Mongolia in ESCAP meetings	2,000

He noted that his Government's intended contribution to SIAP in 1993 represented an increase of US$ 3,000 over its 1992 contribution. In addition, he announced that Thailand would contribute US$ 40,000 to APDC, US$ 30,000 to CCOP and US$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee in 1993.

508. **Tonga.** The representative of Tonga announced that her Government would communicate its intended contribution to the secretariat at a later date.

509. **Vanuatu.** The representative of Vanuatu announced that the intended contribution of Vanuatu in 1993 would be at the same level as in 1992, which had been US$ 1,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund.

510. **Viet Nam.** The representative of Viet Nam announced that his Government would communicate its level of contribution in 1993 to the secretariat at a later date.

511. **Macau.** The representative of Macau announced that her Government would contribute US$ 15,000 to SIAP.

512. **New Caledonia.** The representative of New Caledonia announced that her Government would communicate its intended contribution in 1993 to the secretariat at a later date.

513. **Germany.** In reiterating the continued support of the Government of Germany to ESCAP through the funding of specific technical cooperation in selected priority areas of the ESCAP programme of work, the representative of Germany emphasized the importance that his Government attached to intensifying and extending direct links with ESCAP. He informed the Commission that the development assistance programme to ESCAP in 1992 had amounted to DM 4.5 million, concentrated mainly in the agreed priority areas of cooperation: the extension of the regional transport network, the promotion of industrial development and trade, and the improvement of agricultural production by means of specific extension measures in the areas of fertilizer marketing and distribution. He indicated that the development assistance programme to ESCAP would continue to be concentrated in the three agreed areas of cooperation within the scope of extrabudgetary resources. In addition, his Government would provide DM 2.5 million to finance one German expert as Director of APCTT for a period of up to three years. He hoped that the new Director would be able to take up his assignment with the Centre during the course of 1993.

514. **United Nations Development Programme.** The representative of UNDP reiterated the full support of UNDP to ESCAP and announced that almost all UNDP-ESCAP cooperation programmes, notably: (a) CITYNET and urbanization; (b) remote sensing; (c) energy and environment; (d) trade and investment; (e) SIAP; and (f) transport and communications, had been approved and would be finalized expeditiously in the very near future.

515. The total pledges of contributions for 1993 made by 26 members and associate members and one observer State amounted to approximately US$ 13.29 million, and comprised US$ 8.11 million in cash and an estimate of US$ 5.18 million in kind.

516. The Commission noted that the total pledges did not include either the possible contributions from other members and donors that had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, or the value of several unquantified contributions pledged. In addition, extrabudgetary resources to be received from UNDP, UNFPA, other agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations for ESCAP-executed projects were not reflected in the total pledges.

517. The Commission noted that several developing countries as well as least developed countries had enhanced their contributions to the three regional institutions and RNAM. Nevertheless, a deficit would remain in meeting institutional costs. In that connection, the Commission noted with appreciation the offer by Germany to finance the post of Director of APCTT for a period of three years beginning in 1993, and to cover other support costs.

518. The Commission noted with appreciation that in pursuance of the appeal made by the Executive Secretary during the forty-eighth session of the Commission, several developing countries, in addition to the donor countries, had announced their intended contributions in order to finance the participation of representatives of the disadvantaged economies in transition in the annual sessions of the Commission, including the current session. It also noted that many more countries had announced their contributions to the Pacific Trust Fund.

519. The Executive Secretary, thanking the donors, members and associate members for announcing their intended contributions to the ESCAP programme of work, regional institutions and special regional projects, took note of the Commission's emphasis on greater involvement of participating countries in the formulation of extrabudgetary-funded projects, as well as on the level of participation of developing member countries in the activities of the Commission. In his concluding remarks, the Executive Secretary took note of the interest of members and associate members in subregional projects. He informed the Commission that, in addition to UNDP funding for subregional activities, ESCAP had also been engaged in subregional activities, for example in North-East Asia, for which the funding had been provided by the Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

520. The Commission had before it and endorsed the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission as contained in documents E/ESCAP/922 and E/ESCAP/922/Add.1. It expressed appreciation of the report. The representative of Nepal had served as the rapporteur of the Advisory Committee.

521. Since the forty-eighth session of the Commission, ACPR had held 11 regular sessions and 1 informal meeting, at which it had discussed the following: the outcome of the forty-eighth session of the Commission; the progress in the implementation of resolutions and other decisions of the Commission at that session; the preparations for the forty-ninth session of the Commission, including its theme topic, the tentative date, timetable and provisional and annotated provisional agendas; the contents of the revised thematic subprogramme in the light of the recommendations of the expert consultation on the thematic reorientation of the work of ESCAP and the proposed draft programme of work and priorities, 1994-1995; the draft proposed programme changes of the programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993; the tentative calendar of meetings, April 1993-March 1994; the implementation of the programme of work of the substantive divisions of ESCAP; the programme support services of the secretariat; the report on the implementation of the programme of work, 1992-1993; the preparations for and review of the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, the first session of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and the first meeting of its Steering Group, the eighth session of the Committee on Statistics, the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries; the preparations for the second session of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation; the report of ACPR to the Commission; the follow-up to Commission resolution 48/12 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields — the role and functions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; and the finalization of the response of the Commission to General Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992. A special report by ACPR on the implementation of resolution 48/12 (E/ESCAP/891 and Corr.1) was submitted to the Commission under agenda item 5 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

522. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the activities carried out by ACPR under its enhanced terms of reference as adopted by the Commission at its forty-eighth session. In particular, it appreciated the efforts of ACPR to monitor the progress made in the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the Commission, especially Commission resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and its deliberations on the programme of work of ESCAP. The Commission called on ACPR to continue to include in its work plan the follow-up to Commission resolution 48/2.

523. The Commission commended ACPR on successfully implementing Commission resolution 48/12. It noted with appreciation the contribution made by the ACPR open-ended working group to the preparation of the Commission response to General Assembly resolution 46/235. The Commission urged ACPR to keep abreast of developments in the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations.

524. The Commission noted with satisfaction the increasingly cooperative and productive relationship between ACPR and the secretariat and expressed appreciation of the secretariat support of the Committee. The constructive interaction between the Committee and the secretariat had made ACPR a more viable and useful body. A number of suggestions put forward by ACPR had been implemented by the secretariat.

525. The Commission stressed the role played by ACPR as a channel of communication between member Governments and the secretariat and as a mechanism for inter-sessional consultations between them and for facilitating consensus on a number of issues. It was expected that, in the light of new mandates expected to be devolved to the regional commissions in the restructuring of the United Nations, the role of ACPR would gain increased importance.

526. The Commission noted suggestions that had been made concerning the following: the monitoring by ACPR of the implementation of the thematic approach adopted by the Commission at its forty-eighth session, including the thematic programme of work; the consideration by ACPR of proposed draft resolutions prior to the convening of annual sessions of the Commission whenever possible; and the scheduling of meetings of ACPR. Noting that a sizeable number of members and associate members were not yet represented on the Committee, the Commission called for their increased participation in the deliberations of the Committee in view of its increased importance and enhanced role.

527. The Deputy Executive Secretary affirmed that the secretariat looked forward to the continued contribution of the Committee. The work of the Committee would be particularly important in the forthcoming months in view of the current efforts at revitalization and restructuring of the United Nations, which would have a strong impact on the work of the Commission. The secretariat was pleased with the

increased representation on ACPR, particularly that of the Pacific island countries.

Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fiftieth session of the Commission

528. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/923. It accepted with appreciation the generous invitation of the Government of India to hold the fiftieth session of the Commission at New Delhi during the period February to April 1994. The Executive Secretary, after consultation with the host Government and the Chairperson, would determine the exact dates of the session and inform the members and associate members accordingly.

529. The representative of India emphasized the significance of the Commission as a forum for the promotion of regional cooperation and development. The importance attached by the Government of India to the work of ESCAP had motivated it to invite the Commission to hold its next session at New Delhi.

530. In noting the generous offer of the Government of India to host the fiftieth session of the Commission, the secretariat explained that the approval of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly was necessary before the Commission could accept the offer. A host country agreement would have to be signed by ESCAP and the host country. The secretariat pointed out that the provisions of the agreement were drawn up under the guidance of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the General Assembly in its resolutions and decisions. The provisions of the host country agreement had been standardized by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. An important provision of the agreement was that all the representatives of ESCAP members and associate members, and of other States Members of the United Nations, were required to be provided unimpeded entry and exit from the host country. Intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals invited by ESCAP, as well as officers of the secretariat who would service the session, would also have similar rights. The host country agreement would spell out those rights in respect of all participants and persons performing functions in connection with the session. They should enjoy the privileges and immunities, and facilities and courtesies necessary for the independent exercise of their functions. Moreover, any and all additional costs for holding the Commission session in a place other than its headquarters would have to be borne fully by the host country. Detailed estimates of the additional cost to the Government would be made available by the ESCAP secretariat to the Government of India.

531. The Government of India agreed to bear all responsibility for hosting the fiftieth session, including the additional administrative, logistical and financial expenditure involved in holding the session away from the headquarters of the Commission and to fulfil the obligations under the standard agreement between the United Nations and the host Government. The secretariat would extend its full cooperation in holding the fiftieth session at New Delhi.

Theme topic for the fiftieth session of the Commission

532. The Commission considered the choice of a theme topic for its next session. Several suggestions were put forward by representatives of member Governments in the course of discussions, following which the Plenary decided to request the Chairperson of the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions to conduct informal consultations on the matter. On completion of the informal consultations, the results were conveyed through the Chairperson of the Commission to the Plenary for its approval.

533. The Commission observed that a major impediment to economic growth that was emerging or intensifying in most developing countries of the region was the deficiency in infrastructure (power supply, telecommunications; and transport, including roads, rural roads, railways and ports). It stressed that if that problem could be solved trade and investment would be stimulated and regional economic cooperation enhanced. The Commission, accordingly, decided that the theme topic for the fiftieth session of the Commission should be "Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation". The Commission directed that in its study on the theme topic the secretariat should, *inter alia*, focus on an assessment of the magnitude of the deficiency in the physical infrastructure facilities in the developing countries, as well as in the disadvantaged economies in transition of the region, on the resources required for addressing that deficiency and on the measures needed to attract private investment, both domestic and foreign, for establishing infrastructure facilities. The successful experience of countries in the region in attracting private investment in infrastructure development facilities, as well as the policies needed for efficient management of infrastructure facilities, should also be utilized. In the promotion of increased investment for infrastructure building, the sustainability of development should be taken into account. The study should also focus on areas in which regional cooperation could facilitate the establishment of infrastructure facilities.

Adoption of the report of the Commission

534. At its 750th meeting on 29 April 1993, the Commission adopted the draft report.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION

49/1. Implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment[1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 48/1 of 23 April 1992 on the declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation, known as the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation, in which it urged strongly that promotion of intraregional trade and investment should receive high priority in economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and in the Commission's deliberations,

Recalling also its resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, by which it established the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its high-level Steering Group,

Noting the sustained growth and expansion of trade in the ESCAP region as a whole, but also recognizing the potential for the further expansion of trade for the benefit of all the developing economies in the region, especially the least developed, land-locked and Pacific island economies as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition,

Taking into account the need for the establishment of a strong regional economy in Asia and the Pacific, with growing interlinkages in trade and investment among ESCAP members and associate members in order to enable the region to retain its resilience into the next century, which will require policies that foster closer economic ties based on expanding interdependence within the region,

Recognizing that notwithstanding such co-operative endeavours within the region, the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and an open world trading system must still underpin the regionwide pursuit of outward-oriented development strategies,

Emphasizing the relevance of the recommendations emerging from the deliberations on the theme topic of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, "Expansion of investment and intraregional trade as a vehicle for enhancing regional economic cooperation and development in Asia and the Pacific", as a step towards achieving a more balanced and sustained development of the region,

Focusing on the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment as endorsed by the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its second session and further endorsed by the Commission at the present session,

Realizing the importance of effective utilization of all available resources, as well as of avoiding duplication of effort for the creation of a better environment for the promotion of regional economic cooperation and development,

Acknowledging the funding support of the United Nations Development Programme under its fifth intercountry programme for the efficient implementation of the action programme,

1. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to accord priority, subject to the availability of financial resources, to the activities of the secretariat in the implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment, particularly in the following areas:

    (a) Review and analysis of regional trade patterns;

    (b) Strengthening of the Regional Trade Information Network;

    (c) Networking of trade-related research institutions;

    (d) Enhancement of national capabilities in quality control;

    (e) Sectoral foreign direct investment inflows and analysis of foreign direct investment policies;

    (f) Establishment of a regional investment information and promotion service;

    (g) Development of export-oriented small and medium enterprises;

    (h) Environmental issues related to trade and investment;

    (i) Assistance in specific sectors to disadvantaged economies in transition;

    (j) Integration of the central Asian economies into the region;

    (k) Inter-subregional cooperation in trade and investment;

2. *Calls upon* all members and associate members to support and participate actively in the implementation of the action programme;

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[1] See paras. 167, 273-279 and 281 above.

3. *Invites* the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and interested United Nations agencies and organizations, as well as bilateral donor countries and the members and associate members of the Commission, to collaborate actively with the secretariat in its efforts to implement the action programme;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report annually on the progress in the implementation of the action programme, beginning with the fiftieth session of the Commission.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/2. Resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific[2]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 236 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on the proclamation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/78 of 27 July 1984, in which the Council endorsed resolution 236 (XL), and General Assembly resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984, in which the Assembly proclaimed a Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling Commission resolution 47/10 of 10 April 1991 on phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, in which the Commission decided that the programmes for the Decade should be redesigned and the period of the second quinquennium modified to 1992-1996, and in which it urged the United Nations Development Programme to provide funds for developing the regional action programme,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/75 of 26 July 1991, in which the Council endorsed Commission resolution 47/10, and General Assembly decision 46/453 of 20 December 1991 by which the Assembly endorsed Council resolution 1991/75,

Recalling further the Declaration of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications: Launching of Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific of 5 June 1992, in which the Governments of the ESCAP region endorsed the regional action programme,

Reaffirming the agreement of the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, held at Bangkok in June 1992, that the issue of resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme was of equal importance with the formulation of a sound programme, and that the success of the implementation of the programme, and therefore of the Decade, would depend heavily on assistance from donors,

Noting the statement of the representative of the United Nations Development Programme at the first meeting of the Inter-agency Steering Committee on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, held at Geneva in December 1992, that US$ 12 million had been allocated for the regional action programme under the Programme's theme of economic reform and, therefore, there was no possibility of additional funding from the intercountry indicative planning figure, and noting that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme will review the regional indicative planning figure at the mid-term review exercise in 1994,

Deeply concerned at the drastic decrease in the level of funds allocated by the United Nations Development Programme for the fifth cycle, which is 75 per cent less than the approximately US$ 48 million allocated for the fourth cycle (1987-1991) including US$ 6 million from the Special Programme Resources to eight United Nations organizations and specialized agencies for the implementation of projects related to transport and communications in Asia and the Pacific,

Noting with appreciation the cooperation and support of the United Nations Development Programme in the preparation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, nevertheless stresses that the regional action programme cannot be implemented effectively and efficiently without adequate funds, particularly from the United Nations Development Programme,

Reaffirming the high priority that the Commission gives to phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the draft resolution annexed to the present resolution.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

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[2] See para. 188 above.

Annex

DRAFT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME FOR PHASE II (1992-1996) OF THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Recommends* to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Noting* resolution 49/2 of 29 April 1993 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,

"*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984, by which the Assembly proclaimed a Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific during the period 1985-1994, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/78 of 27 July 1984 on the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994,

"*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/75 of 26 July 1991, in which the Council urged all appropriate organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, to contribute effectively to the formulation and implementation of a regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade, and General Assembly decision 46/453 of 20 December 1991, by which the Assembly endorsed Council resolution 1991/75,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,

"*Concerned* that the regional action programme may not be able to be implemented effectively and efficiently without adequate funds, particularly from the United Nations Development Programme, and noting the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in this regard,

"1. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme, in the light of General Assembly decision 46/453 of 20 December 1991 on phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, to reconsider its decision regarding the level of funding to be provided for the implementation of the regional action programme so as to enable phase II (1992-1996) of the Decade to have greater impact;

"2. *Requests* bilateral donors to take note of General Assembly decision 46/453, so as to ensure that the programme approved by the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, held at Bangkok in June 1992, will be implemented effectively;

"3. *Invites* all Governments in a position to do so to contribute to the implementation of the programme approved by the Meeting of Ministers;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the action taken to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session."

49/3. Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific[3]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 47/153 of 18 December 1992 on industrial development cooperation, as well as Assembly resolution 47/171 of 22 December 1992 on privatization in the context of economic restructuring, economic growth and sustainable development, in which the Assembly welcomed the activities being undertaken by relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in supporting national efforts aimed at increasing economic efficiency, growth and sustainable development,

Bearing in mind also General Assembly resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Recalling the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development in 1979, and resolution GC.3/Res. 18 of 23 November 1989 on the Special Programme for the Industrial Development of Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,

Recalling its resolution 235 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on the Tokyo Programme on Technology for Development in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling also its resolution 47/2 of 10 April 1991 on the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific and its adoption of the Seoul Plan of Action at its forty-eighth session in April 1992,

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[3] See para. 205 above.

Recalling further its resolution 48/1 of 23 April 1992 on the declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation, known as the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation,

Recognizing the urgent need to spread the development momentum to all countries of the region, especially the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition,

Realizing that the growing integration of the world economy has led to a situation wherein factors exogenous to national economies are increasingly important, and that enhanced regional and global cooperation is called for,

Recognizing also that the overall dynamic performance of the region can be further strengthened through increased regional and subregional cooperation and by the integration into the world economy of the region's least developed and island developing economies and disadvantaged economies in transition through increased trade, investment and national capacity-building,

Welcoming the greater emphasis on the adoption of policies and measures in promoting the role of the private sector in industrial development and technological progress,

Welcoming also the important initiatives taken to organize the first Private Sector Symposium, held at Tehran on 26 June 1992, in conjunction with the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology and to incorporate the recommendations of the Symposium in the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific, as well as in the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development,

1. *Takes note of* the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, held at Tehran on 28 and 29 June 1992, and the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the Meeting of Ministers;

2. *Endorses* the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development, also adopted by the Meeting of Ministers;

3. *Calls for* the early implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, the Tehran Declaration, and the Regional Strategy and Action Plan;

4. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to upgrade the existing national centre, namely the Institute for Research in Planning and Development, Tehran, to provide regional and subregional facilities, and in that context, requests the Executive Secretary to examine the legal, financial and other implications and modalities and report to the Commission at its fiftieth session;

5. *Invites* all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned, as well as regional and subregional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, multilateral funding agencies, bilateral aid agencies and donor Governments, to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the Tehran Declaration and the Regional Strategy and Action Plan;

6. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to mobilize resources for the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, the Tehran Declaration, and the Regional Strategy and Action Plan, and to report on the progress in implementing those recommendations to the Commission at its fifty-first and subsequent sessions;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene in 1996 a regional conference of senior officials, representatives of concerned United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations, and the private sector, in order to review and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, the Tehran Declaration, and the Regional Strategy and Action Plan, and to report thereon to the Commission at its fifty-third session, to be held in 1997.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/4. Population and sustainable development: goals and strategies into the twenty-first century[4]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 48/4 of 23 April 1992 on the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, 1992, in which it recalled its decision to organize the Conference as a ministerial meeting jointly with the United Nations Population Fund in order to review the changes in the population situation that had occurred during the 1980s and highlight the perspectives of population policies and programmes during the 1990s in countries and areas of Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that integration of population factors in the socio-economic development process is crucial and that the alleviation of poverty is fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development,

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[4] See paras. 225-246 above.

Mindful of the substantial progress achieved by members and associate members in responding to the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development adopted by the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held at Colombo in 1982, and the role played by the secretariat and donors, particularly the United Nations Population Fund, in its implementation,

Taking note of the importance of the International Conference on Population and Development to be held at Cairo in 1994,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, in August 1992, of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, and endorses the recommendations of that Declaration;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members to take early and effective action to implement the Bali Declaration through the provision of adequate financial and human resources;

3. *Also urges* all members, associate members and the Executive Secretary to make every effort to incorporate population, environment and development concerns in their inputs to the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development;

4. *Calls upon* donor countries and funding agencies, in particular the United Nations Population Fund, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to provide substantive and financial support for the implementation of the Bali Declaration;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, as head of the main centre within the United Nations system for the general economic and social development of the Asian and Pacific region:

(a) To assist the members and associate members in the implementation of the Bali Declaration by initiating appropriate activities, and to review and appraise their progress;

(b) To cooperate with members and associate members in implementing the Bali Declaration, and, in the light of the declining financial and human resources devoted to the Asian and Pacific regional population programme, to seek to mobilize resources for this purpose;

(c) To continue to play an advocacy role in the planning and implementation of population programmes in the ESCAP region, and even more vigorously in the light of the Bali Declaration;

(d) To disseminate information through regular publications and other appropriate means concerning the implementation of the Bali Declaration and the challenges faced by countries in the region in its implementation;

(e) To report to the Commission at periodic intervals on the progress made;

(f) To organize a meeting of senior planners and policy makers to incorporate concretely the recommendations of the Bali Declaration within the regional document for the International Conference on Population and Development;

6. *Invites* the Executive Secretary, in transmitting the present resolution to the Economic and Social Council, to request that it be brought to the attention of the General Assembly.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/5. Regional programme on space applications for development[5]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Realizing the current global concern regarding natural resources depletion and environmental degradation, as expressed overwhelmingly at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992,

Recognizing that the implementation of Agenda 21 calls for an understanding of the interdependence of environment and development, and the interaction of various components of the Earth environment system,

Agreeing that the advancement of space science and technology, and its applications, have been of immense benefit to natural resources management, environmental monitoring and sustainable development planning,

Convinced that Earth space information technology, particularly remote sensing and related geographic information system technology, owing to its multidisciplinary nature and holistic power to gather and analyse synoptic, dynamic and authentic data, is the most appropriate tool for providing the integrated information required in decision-making for optimum management of natural resources and the environment, and for development planning,

Noting that several countries in the Asian and Pacific region had experienced a significant development of space applications activities in the past decade,

Further noting that there is an increasing demand for Earth space information technology applications for sustainable development in the region,

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[5] See para. 451 above.

Realizing that international cooperation and coordination on space applications, in consultation and collaboration with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other agencies of the United Nations system are essential complements to individual national efforts to enable the different members and associate members of the Commission to share their experience and expertise,

Recalling, inter alia, its resolution 48/1 of 23 April 1992 on the declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation, by which it urged strongly that promotion of greater cooperation in science and technology and in the development of infrastructure should receive high priority in economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and in the Commission's deliberations,

Further recalling its resolution 47/8 of 10 April 1991 on regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems, by which it decided to continue to promote and strengthen regional cooperation and collaboration in the area of satellite technology applications for sustainable natural resources development and environmental management,

Reiterating its views expressed at the forty-eighth session of the Commission, held at Beijing in 1992, that to ensure coordinated development of space remote sensing applications in the region and to sustain such activities, a space applications programme should be initiated by the members and associate members of the Commission,

Reaffirming its opinion, expressed also at the forty-eighth session of the Commission, that to initiate a regional space applications programme, a senior officials meeting should be held to explore mechanisms and to make the necessary preparations for a ministerial-level meeting to launch the programme,

Acknowledging the generous offer made by the Government of China to host the ministerial-level meeting together with the senior officials meeting in the second half of 1994,

1. *Urges* the secretariat to continue its efforts to promote the sharing of experience between the members and associate members of the Commission in order to achieve sustainable development, at each country's initiative, through the integration of Earth space information technology applications with the management of natural resources and the environment and with development planning;

2. *Decides* that a ministerial-level meeting on space applications for development will be held at Beijing on 23 and 24 September 1994 to launch a regional space applications programme for development;

3. *Agrees* that a senior officials meeting should be held from 19 to 22 September 1994, immediately before the ministerial-level meeting, under the same host facility arrangements, to complete proposals for a regional space applications programme for development and to submit their recommendations to the ministerial-level meeting for consideration;

4. *Urges* all members and associate members of the Commission to participate actively in the senior officials meeting and the ministerial-level meeting and to cooperate closely in completing the regional space applications programme for development in Asia and the Pacific;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To mobilize resources for preparatory activities leading to the ministerial-level meeting;

(b) To intensify the interdivisional efforts to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat, subject to the availability of budgetary resources, for preparation of the ministerial-level meeting;

(c) To request regional financial institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank, to sponsor jointly the ministerial-level meeting and to cooperate financially in the follow-up of the decisions and recommendations adopted at that meeting;

(d) To request the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility to cooperate in the holding of the ministerial-level meeting and in its follow-up in the context of their action plan;

(e) To report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on the progress in the preparations for the ministerial-level meeting.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/6. Proclamation and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002[6]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting with concern that people with disabilities are among the poorest and most vulnerable members of most communities in the Asian and Pacific region and that special measures are required to ensure their full participation and equality in society,

Recalling the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, and Commission resolution 48/5 of 23 April 1992, in which the Commission endorsed the Strategy,

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[6] See paras. 310-321 above.

Reaffirming the need for priority to be assigned to the region's disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups, including persons with disabilities, as stated in the Social Development Strategy,

Recalling Commission resolution 48/3 of 23 April 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1992/289 of 31 July 1992,

Recalling also the successful intergovernmental Meeting to Launch the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, held at Beijing from 1 to 5 December 1992, hosted by the Government of China through the China Disabled Persons' Federation, and supported by the Government of Japan,

Noting with appreciation the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region, which was adopted at that Meeting,

Welcoming the signing of the Proclamation by heads of State and Government and senior government officials of a number of ESCAP members and associate members,

Also welcoming the establishment of a trust fund for the Decade, subsequent to the adoption of Commission resolution 48/3, with generous contributions from the Governments of Australia, China, Hong Kong and the Republic of Korea,

1. *Urges* all members and associate members of the Commission to stress their commitment to the full participation and equality of people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region by joining as signatories to the Proclamation at the highest levels of government;

2. *Adopts* the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002;

3. *Requests* all members and associate members to support national implementation of the Agenda for Action through public awareness activities, appropriate policies and other measures, and the allocation of resources;

4. *Invites* all Governments, donor agencies and the private sector to contribute to the trust fund for the Decade to ensure the successful implementation of the Agenda for Action;

5. *Also invites* the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other concerned United Nations bodies and agencies, in close cooperation with ESCAP, to strengthen their support for the building of national capabilities for effective implementation of the Agenda for Action;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To give special attention, in collaboration with all concerned United Nations bodies and agencies and non-governmental organizations, to the development of regional activities in support of the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the full participation and equality of people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region;

(b) To include an item on the progress in implementing the Agenda for Action, incorporating information on the signatories to the Proclamation, on the agenda for the regional ministerial-level meeting to be convened in 1994 in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development to be held in 1995.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/7. Implementation of decisions of the General Assembly on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, in Asia and the Pacific[7]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992 on the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and recalling, in particular, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 as adopted at that Conference on 14 June 1992,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 on the institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Economic and Social Council to set up a Commission on Sustainable Development to follow up the Conference, and noting, in particular, the request of the General Assembly to the regional commissions, contained in paragraph 27 of resolution 47/191, to examine the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21 at their next sessions and submit reports on their specific plans to implement Agenda 21,

Recalling also Commission resolution 47/7 of 10 April 1991 on the integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific, in which it endorsed the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development and supported the establishment of an inter-agency committee on environment and development,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 on the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

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[7] See paras. 160-161 above.

Bearing in mind that the Asian and Pacific region, comprising more than half of the world's population within approximately one fourth of the land area, has had remarkable economic growth in recent years, which has led to rapid depletion of natural resources and to serious environmental problems that call for urgent remedial attention,

Welcoming the recent steps taken by the countries of North-East Asia under the auspices of ESCAP to enhance cooperation in environmental protection in that subregion,

Welcoming also the efforts of States Members of the United Nations and the Secretary-General aimed at revitalization and restructuring of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that the regional economic commissions, as appropriate, should play a leading role in coordinating regional and subregional activities by sectoral and other United Nations bodies and assist countries in achieving sustainable development, as recommended in paragraph 38.30 of Agenda 21,

Also recognizing the leading role of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the overall coordination of activities at the global, regional and national levels for the implementation of Agenda 21,

Welcoming further the cooperation and coordination among United Nations bodies and agencies and non-governmental organizations on environmental issues through mechanisms such as the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, and the Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting with satisfaction the development of a framework of regional action for sustainable development as recommended by the ESCAP/UNDP High-level Meeting on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Kuala Lumpur from 15 to 19 February 1993,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to articulate further the regional dimensions of Agenda 21, taking into consideration the desire in the Asian and Pacific region, as expressed in the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, to intensify efforts at national, subregional and regional levels to integrate environmental concerns into development planning and processes, to protect and improve the environmental quality, and to implement appropriate natural resource development and management policies and practices;

2. *Requests* the General Assembly to reinforce the technical capability of the ESCAP secretariat to enable it to play a leading role within the United Nations system in coordinating regional and subregional activities for the implementation of Agenda 21;

3. *Recommends* that regional preparatory work on the formulation of an international convention on desertification be undertaken as appropriate, and requests the members and associate members of the Commission to undertake concerted efforts to provide their input for this purpose;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary: (a) to explore with Governments the assistance that ESCAP should be able to provide in order for them to implement the relevant components of Agenda 21 at the national, subregional and regional levels; (b) to identify areas for cooperation among Governments on environment and development issues; and (c) to seek the cooperation and involvement of subregional organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, taking into account the existing arrangements in furthering the implementation of Agenda 21;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to urge potential donors to allocate on a priority basis an equitable share of extrabudgetary resources to the ESCAP secretariat for implementation of projects and programmes in support of Agenda 21, and also to seek funding support from the Global Environment Facility for this purpose;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene a ministerial-level conference on environment and development in 1995 to discuss the state of environment and development, the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, as well as Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and to provide further guidance on the measures for their implementation;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its fiftieth session his report on specific plans to implement Agenda 21.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/8. Strengthening assistance to least developed countries[8]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 47/4 of 10 April 1991 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, in which the Commission stressed that successful implementation of the Programme of Action would depend on shared responsibility and strengthened partnership for the growth and development of the least developed countries,

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[8] See paras. 291-292 above.

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 45/206 of 21 December 1990 and 46/156 of 19 December 1991 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, by which the Assembly adopted the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, which stated, *inter alia*, that it would be essential to stem the increasing marginalization of the least developed countries and to reactivate their growth and development through comprehensive national action and international support measures,

Reaffirming the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/199, in which the States Members of the United Nations stressed, *inter alia*, the need for full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Noting the establishment, by Commission resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries to help accelerate the pace of development in the least developed and land-locked developing countries within the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Emphasizing the broad range of development issues confronting the least developed countries in the ESCAP region,

Recognizing the need for the region's economic dynamism to be more widespread and for the fruits of economic progress to be shared among all countries in the region, especially the least developed countries,

Recognizing also the new opportunities for expanding trade, technology and investment flows among the Asian and Pacific economies in the post-cold war era, particularly to meet the special needs of the least developed countries,

Deeply concerned about the continuing deterioration in the social, economic and ecological situation of the least developed countries in the region,

1. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries have the primary responsibility for their development based on appropriate domestic policies;

2. *Deeply appreciates* the concerns expressed by member countries for the special needs of the least developed countries within the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

3. *Deeply appreciates also* the assistance provided by the developing countries in the region to the least developed countries under their economic and technical cooperation arrangements, and their stated intention to expand such assistance;

4. *Calls upon* all member Governments and international and multilateral organizations to continue to pay special attention to the special problems of the least developed countries and to render adequate assistance in support of the development efforts of the least developed countries in implementing the Programme of Action for the 1990s;

5. *Urges* the ESCAP secretariat to strengthen its programmes to focus better on meeting the priority needs and concerns of the least developed countries in the region;

6. *Invites* all members and associate members to participate actively and to extend generous assistance in the preparations for the mid-term review at the regional level of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the 1990s, to be undertaken by the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries early in 1995;

7. *Deeply appreciates* the generous offer by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at the first session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries to explore the possibility of providing the necessary assistance to the Government of Bangladesh in carrying out the feasibility study for the establishment at Dhaka of a centre for research on the least developed countries;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/9. Eradication of preventable diseases in the Asian and Pacific region as a component of social and economic development[9]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, and Commission resolution 48/5 of 23 April 1992, in which the Commission endorsed the Strategy annexed to that Declaration,

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[9] See paras. 328-329 above.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 47/40 of 1 December 1992 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/33 of 30 July 1992 on prevention and control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS),

Bearing in mind that public health is an essential component of sustainable economic and social development,

Recognizing that investments in preventing disease and illness can yield substantial economic benefits in the form of increased productivity and reduced outlays for treating preventable diseases,

Recalling the success of the international community in eradicating smallpox,

Concerned that poliomyelitis, which is preventable through a relatively inexpensive oral vaccine or inoculation and has been effectively eradicated in the Western hemisphere, is still prevalent in parts of the Asian and Pacific region,

Noting also that the spread of AIDS, which is becoming increasingly prevalent, is largely preventable through changes in behaviour,

Convinced that successful eradication or control of these and other preventable diseases will require commitment and support from all sectors of society, including social, economic, political, health and education officials, and non-governmental organizations,

Endorsing the ongoing efforts of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and other international organizations, as well as national Governments and non-governmental organizations, to eradicate or substantially reduce preventable diseases in the region,

1. *Urges* members and associate members to take all necessary measures to achieve the goal set by the World Health Organization of eradicating poliomyelitis in the region by the year 2000, or earlier;

2. *Also urges* members and associate members to take coordinated action to control the spread, taking place through different means, of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases by, *inter alia*, providing health information and education and promoting responsible behaviour;

3. *Encourages* members and associate members to take further measures to prevent disease and illness, such as promoting nutrition and hygiene, discouraging unhealthful activities such as tobacco consumption and alcohol abuse, and fighting drug abuse;

4. *Calls on* members and associate members, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to give high priority to preventive health care in their economic and social development plans, in the context of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond;

5. *Urges* the World Health Organization to strengthen further its efforts and collaborative activities with the members and associate members of the Commission in the eradication of preventable diseases in the region, and invites the Organization to present a paper on the situation at the 1994 regional ministerial conference in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development to be held early in 1995;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to work in close association with the World Health Organization to facilitate the presentation of such a report.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/10. Strengthening the role of ESCAP in the coordination of regional operational activities[10]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992, in which it was stated that the regional commissions, particularly those located in developing countries, should also be strengthened in terms of their activities and participation in operational activities of the United Nations system,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and section IV of the annex to that resolution, in which the regional commissions were directed to exercise team leadership and responsibility for coordination and cooperation at the regional level,

Taking note of the work being done by the States Members of the United Nations and the Secretary-General on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields,

Taking note also of the ongoing discussions in the General Assembly on reforming the structure of the Economic and Social Council and of the initiatives of the Secretary-General on reorganizing the United Nations Secretariat,

Reaffirming that in the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields it is indispensable to include provisions for strengthening the regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council to meet effectively the needs for development in their respective regions,

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[10] See para. 180 above.

Recalling its resolutions 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and 48/12 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: role and functions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Referring to the Commission's response to General Assembly resolution 46/235, which was prepared by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, as requested by the Commission in its resolution 48/12, and in which it was recommended that the Assembly should consider the desirability of, *inter alia*, the following:

> "Improved coordination and Secretariat-wide coherence by reinforcing the activities of the regional commissions aimed at mutually supporting the activities of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system in their respective regions through, *inter alia*, intensifying joint activities, programming exercises and coordinating meetings;
>
> ". . .
>
> "Mandating ESCAP as the primary executing agency for regional and subregional programmes, within the United Nations system, so as to centralize coordination tasks and reduce costs. Regional commissions have been designated as the lead coordinators of inter-agency functions and regional activities, and as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions for coordination at the regional and subregional levels. This mandate should not prevent the regional commissions from inviting other United Nations funding agencies to function as team leaders for specific programmes, when appropriate;",

Stressing the accumulated experience of ESCAP in the development of policy formulation and its associated technical cooperation programmes as well as regional operational activities as a means of providing further impetus to the development of members and associate members of the Commission,

Stressing also that there is an urgent need for coordination of the regional and subregional operational activities of the United Nations organizations, programmes and funds as well as those of the specialized agencies at the regional level,

1. *Calls upon* all parties involved in the Economic and Social Council reform process to take appropriate measures to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system at the regional level, through a fully coordinated approach to fulfilling the needs of the members and associate members of the Commission;

2. *Urges* that in the coordination of operational activities among the United Nations organizations, programmes and funds as well as those of the specialized agencies, the role of ESCAP should be strengthened at the regional level, taking into account the comparative advantages that the regional commissions enjoy in such areas as information-gathering, monitoring economic developments and promoting cooperation with and among their member Governments, including the provision of technical cooperation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the United Nations organizations, programmes and funds, as well as those agencies engaged in operational activities in the ESCAP region, to continue to follow closely the ongoing reforms in the United Nations and to submit to the Commission at its fiftieth session a report on the ways and means of implementation at the regional level of the relevant decisions that will have been taken by the General Assembly or the developments in that regard;

4. *Decides* to include the question of strengthening the coordination of the regional operational activities on the agenda for its fiftieth and subsequent sessions at periodic intervals.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES, 1994-1995

Programme: 31. Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific

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Subprogrammes

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Subprogramme 1. Regional economic cooperation

Orientation:

1. The programmed activities will focus on the ongoing structural changes and policy reforms in the economies which are likely to further strengthen trade, investment and technology linkages in the region. The immediate goals of the envisaged activities are to develop an appropriate policy environment and to create and strengthen institutional capacities and skills at the regional, subregional and national levels, to enable countries to exploit more fully the increasing opportunities for intraregional trade and investment. The work programme includes a convergent and concerted set of research and operational activities which will address key issues, such as macroeconomic policies, restructuring, market access and trade promotion, trade in services, technology development and transfer, investment flows, joint ventures and development finance, and cooperation among subregional groups.

2. Diversity in economic performance persists across countries and subregions in the Asian and Pacific region. The impressive growth of the newly industrializing economies (NIEs), the members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China has been due to strong export performance, fuelled by investments and industrial restructuring. Recently, a number of South Asian and Indo-Chinese countries have initiated policy reforms, including liberalization of foreign trade and investment, deregulation of the financial sector and privatization.

3. It is important that the dynamism of the NIEs and the South-East Asian economies be transmitted to the rest of the Asian and Pacific economies. The currency realignments resulting from the Plaza accord in 1985 have stimulated this process and boosted intraregional trade. On the investment side, the sharp appreciation of the Japanese yen has accelerated the process of economic restructuring in Japan, benefiting mainly the NIEs. Over time the NIEs have in turn been compelled by currency appreciation and high labour costs to invest in South-East Asia and China. In this process "growth triangles" have emerged to exploit more fully the complementarities within a limited geographical area on the basis of comparative advantage.

4. In order to maintain their international competitiveness, the NIEs will have to continue the process of economic restructuring, with greater emphasis on technology and skill-intensive industries. Consequently, foreign direct investment flows from the NIEs to the rest of Asia are likely to increase. The South-East Asian countries will also become increasingly selective about the types of industries in which they wish to encourage investments, and a progressive shift to more technology- and capital-intensive industries will take place. In this process, increased trade, investment and technology linkages will develop between the more advanced developing countries and the South Asian and Indo-Chinese countries. The Asian republics of the former Soviet Union have also initiated policy reform, and are seeking to foster closer economic ties with the other countries of the region. These countries, along with other former centrally planned economies in the region, will strive to accelerate the process of reform, thereby facilitating the internationalization of their economies and integration into the mainstream of the region's economic growth and dynamism.

Resource requirements

Work-months (Professional)						Extrabudgetary funds	
Regular budget				Extrabudgetary[a]		(Thousands of US dollars)	Percentage
Current	Proposed	Total	Percentage	Proposed	Percentage		
683	120	803	27	96	17.4	4 111	17.4

[a] Indicating allocation of proposed work-months from non-reimbursable loan (NRL) experts.

Activities:

1.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

(1) Reports to the Commission on the progress of the subprogramme (1994, 1995)

(2) Reports of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation to the Commission (1994, 1995)

(3) Reports to the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (1994, 1995)

(4) Reports to the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (1994, 1995)

(ii) *Substantive services:*

(1) Annual sessions of the Commission (1994, 1995)

(2) Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (1994, 1995)

(3) Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (biannual 1994, 1995)

(4) Commodities cooperative arrangements in silk, jute, tropical timber and coffee (1994, 1995)

(5) Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement (1994)

(6) Intergovernmental meeting on the development of a regional investment information and promotion service for Asia and the Pacific (1994)

1.2 Published materials

(i) *Recurrent publications:*

(1) *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* (1994, 1995)

(2) *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

(3) *Development Papers* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

(4) *Regional Trade and Investment Review* (1995)

(5) *TISNET Trade Information Sheet* (23 in 1994, 23 in 1995)

(6) *Prices of Selected Asia/Pacific Products* (12 in 1994, 12 in 1995)

(7) *Directory of Trade Promotion/Development Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific*, sixth edition (1995)

(8) *Industrial Development News for Asia and the Pacific* (1994, 1995)

(9) *Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* (1994, 1995)

(10) *Trade Information Source Databank: Annual Cumulative Index* (1994, 1995)

(11) *Fertilizer Trade Information Services* (12 in 1994, 12 in 1995)

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*

(1) Economic development issues (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995):

(a) Modelling and simulation of regional and subregional interlinked macroeconomic systems, with trade, investment and technology transfer as strategic variables

(b) Macroeconomic management issues and economic reforms in the region's developing economies, especially Pacific island and least developed economies, economies in transition and other disadvantaged economies, within the framework of a changing global and regional economic environment

(c) Promotion of intra- and inter-subregional economic cooperation

(d) Evolving patterns of complementarities and interdependence in the region in such areas as trade, finance, capital, investment and labour flows, technological progress and enhancing assistance to the region's disadvantaged economies in these areas

Regional economic cooperation *(continued)*

(2) Trade and development finance issues (4 in 1994, 3 in 1995):

   (a) Trade and investment complementarities for joint ventures

   (b) Linkages between Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the rest of the region

   (c) Short-term impact of the single European market on Asian and Pacific economies

   (d) Impact of the North American free trade agreement (NAFTA) on the Asian and Pacific region

   (e) Trade profiles

   (f) Guidebook on a selected exportable product of the region

(3) Industrial and technological development:

   (a) Promotion of inter- and intra-regional investment flows (1994)

   (b) Promotion of intra-industry investment and technology for manufacturing diversification and competitiveness (1994, 1995)

   (c) Regional cooperation measures for skills development to promote technology-led industrialization (1994, 1995)

   (d) Feasibility study for the establishment of a forum for promoting sustainable industrial and technological development (1994)

   (e) Technological transaction patterns for enhancing regional cooperation (1995)

   (f) Capabilities for acquisition and use of selected technologies (1994, 1995)

   (g) Feasibility study on the establishment of a regional advisory centre for science and technology (1995)

   (h) Directory of selected research and development (R and D) institutions (1994)

(iii) *Technical material:*

(1) Provision of ad hoc technical information in response to requests from public and private sector organizations (1994, 1995)

1.3 Ad hoc expert groups and related work

(1) Enhancement of technology flows from advanced developing countries to least developed countries (1994)

(2) Promoting regional economic cooperation for industrial and technological skills development, including requirements for adopting new and emerging technologies (1994)

(3) Standardization, quality control and related issues leading to the expansion of intraregional trade (1994)

(4) Inter-subregional cooperation in trade and investment (1995)

(5) Development issues and policies (1994, 1995)

1.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

(1) Macroeconomic policy coordination in the region; assistance to countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, least developed countries and geographically disadvantaged countries in the area of macroeconomic and trade policy issues; modelling and simulation of regional and subregional interlinked macroeconomic systems; promoting intra- and inter-subregional economic cooperation

(2) Identification of trade complementarities within the newly independent Asian republics and between these republics and the rest of the region; expansion of intraregional trade; export promotion techniques and procedures and other trade promotion activities; regional databases for the Regional Trade Information Network (TISNET); human resources development on export promotion techniques and procedures; strengthening of training and research institutions; international and regional trade fairs and exhibitions; trade facilitation measures including standardization and quality control; development of a regional investment and promotion service for Asia and the Pacific

(3) Policy/strategy reorientation and institution-building for industrial development and restructuring, intraregional investment and joint ventures; strengthening capabilities for indigenous technological development and technology transfer, including new and emerging technology and promotion of environmentally sound technology; technical consultancy services; standardization and quality control; technology management and support for the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Transfer of Technology (APCTT)

(ii) *Group training, seminars, workshops:*

(1) Modelling and simulation of regional and subregional interlinked macroeconomic systems; macroeconomic management and economic reforms; the evolving patterns of complementarities and interdependence in the region

(2) Intra- and inter-subregional economic cooperation in trade; intraregional trade expansion policies; impact of the single European market and NAFTA on Asian and Pacific economies; tariff and non-tariff barriers in agricultural commodities and manufactures trade, including environmental issues; enhancement of regional monetary cooperation; policy initiatives in the areas of standardization, quality control and other related issues; TISNET and special trading arrangements; technological developments and physical distribution techniques for expansion of trade

(3) Trade policy and export promotion for economies in transition and Pacific island economies; trade/transit facilities for land-locked countries; regional network of national research institutions for trade-related research; trade in services; promotion of exports of developing countries through trade fairs; development of a database for a regional investment and promotion service; regional investment complementarities

(4) Development and improvement of agro- and allied industries, including agricultural machinery; skills development, including entrepreneurship for small and medium industries; private sector development; women's participation in industry; generation, transfer, adoption and use of conventional and new and emerging technologies; forum for sustainable industrial and technological development and restructuring; intraregional investment and technology flows for strengthening capabilities in areas such as technical consultancy, standardization and quality control and technology management; technology blending for development of small and medium industries

1.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

(1) Coordination with relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other systems and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations/institutions at the global, regional and subregional levels

Subprogramme 2. Environment and sustainable development

Orientation:

1. The immediate purpose of the programmed activities is to mitigate environmental problems and promote sustainable development, and integrate environmental considerations into the economic development planning process and development activities.

2. The guiding principles for development and the aim of environment and sustainable development are to maintain and conserve ecosystems and the biosphere in its diversity, to utilize renewable resources in a manner that does not exceed their renewal rate, to reduce and prevent environmental pollution and the generation of waste, which may adversely affect environmental and human health, and to exploit non-renewable resources in a manner that maximizes efficiency in resource use, taking into account the needs of future generations.

3. Some national economies are severely affected by frequently occurring natural disasters, the effects of which are amplified owing to population pressure and environmental degradation, requiring concerted action for mitigation and reduction of natural hazards, especially during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

4. Activities are designed to address the following problems in managing natural resources: land, water, minerals, oceans, the sub-surface, the atmosphere and other non-living resources. The development and use of these resources are essential to sustain mankind. Natural resources development and management will face increasing challenges in the 1990s in the face of indiscriminate exploitation, rapid population growth and the resultant ever-increasing pressure on the environment. Activities are directed towards developing integrated management of natural resources based on recognition of natural resources as an essential and integral part of the ecosystem, as an element of social well-being and as an economic commodity. Long-term sustainability of resources and the ability to meet the future demands of growing populations require appropriate policies, development and management practices to avoid economic and physical depletion and degradation of air, water, land and mineral resources.

5. Energy is indispensable in economic development, but its development and use contribute to environmental degradation. Therefore, energy development and management is an international issue requiring specific attention. The environmental concern about energy can be considered at global, regional, subregional and national or local levels. The perception of global energy resource constraints (such as oil crises) has now given way to the perception of impending constraints associated with global warming. The focus of the programme activities will be on the need to limit, and indeed reduce, the demand for fossil fuels by pursuing policies aimed at decreasing energy intensity, fuel substitution and fuel switching. At regional and subregional levels the focus will be on acid rain, while at national or local levels the main concerns pertain to air pollution in urban centres and the impact of power plant projects.

6. Advanced information technologies, including computer and remote sensing applications, the geographic information systems (GIS), geochemical/geophysical methods and modern cartographic techniques, combined with the traditional data-gathering methods, are essential tools for natural resources management and environmental monitoring that should be exploited to facilitate the development planning process.

7. Activities envisaged for the biennium 1994-1995 will therefore focus on (a) policies and plans for sustainable development; (b) environment and development; (c) natural resources development and management; (d) energy development and management; (e) natural disaster reduction; and (f) coordination, harmonization and liaison with other agencies, institutions and regional organizations.

Resource requirements

Work-months (Professional)						Extrabudgetary funds	
Regular budget				Extrabudgetary[a]			
Current	Proposed	Total	Percentage	Proposed	Percentage	(Thousands of US dollars)	Percentage
651.5	48	699.5	23	96	17.4	7 909	33.5

[a] Indicating allocation of proposed work-months from non-reimbursable loan (NRL) experts.

Activities:

2.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

(1) Reports to the Commission on the progress of the subprogramme (1994, 1995)

(2) Reports of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development to the Commission (1994, 1995)

Reports to the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

(3) Selected issues in relation to implementation of the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, Agenda 21, and the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

(4) Regional cooperation on transboundary environmental problems

(5) Global environmental issues

(6) Promotion of regional cooperation on environment matters, including desertification, marine environment, environment and development, and environmental awareness

(7) Integration of remote sensing with GIS for natural resource management, environmental monitoring and sustainable development in the region

(8) Progress in implementation of the recommendations and resolutions of the ministerial meeting on space applications to the environment and sustainable development

(9) Integrated water resources development and management

(10) The role of geosciences in sustainable development: resource development issues and infrastructure policies

(11) Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems

(12) Progress of the subregional coastal zone management programmes of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP), the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation (IOMAC)

(13) Status report on regional practice in the exploitation of waste as a resource

(14) Energy scene and trends, including integration of environment in energy policy and planning

(15) Sectoral energy demand trends, the potential for inter-fuel substitution and energy conservation, and the status of demand-side management in Asia

(16) Prospects for enhancing energy efficiency in the Asian and Pacific region

(17) Operational efficiency improvements including demand-side management of Asian and Pacific electric power utilities

(18) Review of recent natural disasters and natural disaster reduction efforts in the region

Other reports, to:

(19) Ministerial-level meeting on launching the regional space applications programme (1994)

(20) Ministerial-level conference on environment and development (1995)

(ii) *Substantive services:*

(1) Commission sessions (1994, 1995)

(2) Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (1994, 1995)

(3) Ministerial-level meeting on launching the regional space applications programme (1994)

(4) Ministerial-level conference on environment and development (1995)

(5) Inter-Agency Committee on Environment and Development

(6) Other committees and special bodies subsidiary to the Commission

(7) Meeting of the Working Party of Senior Geologists

2.2 Published materials

(i) *Recurrent publications:*

(1) *Remote Sensing Newsletter* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

(2) *Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing Journal* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

(3) *ESCAP Environment Newsletter* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

(4) *Environment News Briefing* - A selection from the region's press (12 in 1994, 12 in 1995)

(5) *Agro-chemicals News in Brief* (6 in 1994, 6 in 1995)

(6) *RISS: Regional Information Support Service on agro-chemicals* (13 in 1994, 13 in 1995)

(7) *Calendar of Meetings on Agro-chemicals* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

(8) *Water Resources Journal* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

(9) *Confluence* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

(10) *Water Resources Series* (1994, 1995)

(11) *ESCAP Energy News* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

(12) *Energy Resources Development Series* (1995)

(13) *Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific* (1994)

(14) *Atlas of Mineral Resources* (1994, 1995)

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*

(1) Policies and plans for environment and sustainable development:

(a) Environment and economics: tools and methodologies for sustainable development (1994, 1995)

(b) Environmentally sound and healthy cities in Asia (1994)

(c) Report on the state of the environment and development (1995)

(d) Population and environment dynamics, poverty and the quality of life (1995)

(2) *Environment and development* (3 in 1994, 3 in 1995):

(a) Sustainable agricultural development strategies

(b) Supply, marketing, distribution and safe use of fertilizer

(c) Clean technologies: options for sustainable development

(d) Environmental impact of air pollution on urban/industrial centres

Environment and sustainable development *(continued)*

(3) *Natural resources development and management* (4 in 1994, 5 in 1995):

   (a) Water resources of member countries and demands by user sectors - phase III

   (b) GIS/LIS (land information system) and remote sensing in land-use planning and desertification and soil erosion mapping

   (c) Earth space information application to agriculture/fisheries resource management

   (d) Resource assessment, development and management

   (e) Geology for land-use planning and environmental management

   (f) Technological advances in treating wastes as resources

   (g) Marine environment and non-living marine resources development

   (h) Mineral concentrations and hydrocarbon accumulations

(4) *Energy development and management* (1 in 1994, 2 in 1995):

   (a) Energy efficiency guidebook for the Asian and Pacific region

   (b) New and renewable sources of energy supply and environmental management

   (c) Environmental management for power systems

(5) *Natural disaster reduction*:

   (a) Seismic and volcanic monitoring systems (1994)

(6) *Manuals, guidelines and rosters relating to environment and sustainable development* (5 in 1994, 4 in 1995):

   (a) Environmental impact assessment guidelines to be utilized in fertilizer, pesticide and soil testing

   (b) Manual for agricultural extension agents on environmental issues related to fertilization

   (c) Manual on the environmentally sound management of national parks and reserves

   (d) Guidelines on the participatory approach to urban environmental management

   (e) Operational aspects of Agenda 21

   (f) Guidelines on water and sustainable development

   (g) Roster of regional experts and institutions on conservation and efficient utilization of energy

   (h) Guidelines for storm surge mapping

(7) *Proceedings of meetings relating to environment and sustainable development* (2 in 1994, 3 in 1995):

   (a) Regional information service

   (b) Socio-economic implications of global environmental issues in Asia and the Pacific

   (c) Tropical ecosystem management

   (d) Remote sensing and GIS for land and marine applications in the South Pacific

   (e) Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems

(iii) *Technical material:*

   (1) Illustrated pesticide safety guide, translated or reprinted into local languages

   (2) Update on the sectoral energy demand database and analysis of the energy situation in Asia

   (3) Update of energy planning software

2.3 Ad hoc expert groups and related work

(1) Analysis of linkages between population factors and sustainable development

(2) Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems

(3) Energy resiliency and integration of environmental policy in energy development and management

2.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

(1) Implementation of Agenda 21, including management of critical ecosystems; Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists; environment and sustainable development, and safe management of fertilizer and pesticides; agrochemicals and the environment under the FADINAP (ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific)/ARSAP (agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific) network of advisory and information systems; population, environment and sustainable development; urban environment management; building up technological capabilities for application of environmentally sound technologies for industrial restructuring

(2) Mineral resource assessment and development; water resources supply and demand assessment; environmental geology and geology for land-use planning; mineral economics, legislation and investment promotion; remote sensing and GIS, with emphasis on institution-building; reducing the impact of droughts, drought early warning systems, water-related natural disaster reduction

(3) Energy development, conservation and management policy, environmental impact and risk assessment; energy resource options and technologies; new and renewable sources in energy mixes; rural energy supply; electricity demand management

(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*

(1) Sustainable agricultural development for least developed countries; environmentally sound development and management in the area of fertilizers and pesticides; national parks and reserves; healthy cities; industrial and urban development in coastal areas; implementation of Agenda 21; waste management audit and technology; assessment and dissemination of environmentally sound technology; population and environment dynamics, poverty and the quality of life

(2) Energy audit techniques; energy resource options and technologies; new and renewable sources of energy with emphasis on rural energy supply; electricity demand management

(3) GIS/LIS and remote sensing for land-use planning; desertification/soil erosion mapping; tropical ecosystem management; regional information service; monitoring, mapping and sampling techniques for resource assessment; remote sensing/GIS integration for resource management; mineral resource economics, legislation and development; integrated water resources development and management; women's role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water; water and sustainable development; the use of underground space for confinement of wastes; integrated marine policies; mineral resource assessment and development techniques; geological factors of land-use planning and resource accounting; storm surge mapping and cyclonic storm hydrology; drought early warning systems

2.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

(1) Economic and Social Council Committee on Natural Resources, Typhoon Committee, Panel on Tropical Cyclones, Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, CCOP, SOPAC, IOMAC and Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre (SEATRADC), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development and the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploitation (RFNRE) (in the fields of geology and minerals); the United Nations Outer Space Affairs Division, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Department of Development Support and Management Services (on space applications, through the annual Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities); Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, ACC (Administrative Committee on Coordination) Intersecretariat Group for Water, Steering Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation, Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction; UNESCO/IGCP (International Geological Correlation Programme), UNESCO/IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission), Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office for Legal Affairs, and other United Nations, governmental and intergovernmental organizations and their bodies on matters related to natural resources

(2) South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN) and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP); Regional Network of Research and Training Institutions on Desertification Control; Regional Network of Environment and Economic Policy Research Institutes on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development; Regional Working Group on Marine Environment and Oceanographic Studies; Commission on Sustainable Development; Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists; Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development

(3) Economic and Social Council Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development, and regional working groups in various energy subsectors; United Nations Department of Development Support and Management Services, FAO, World Bank, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); Asian Development Bank (ADB), APEC, Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC), ASEAN, East-West Center (EWC), International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), World Energy Council (WEC) and other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and their bodies on matters related to energy

Subprogramme 3. Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

Orientation:

1. The programmed activities will focus on (a) growth strategies and structural reforms, (b) human resources development, (c) women in development, (d) social policy, social services and social security, (e) population issues including rural-urban migration, (f) agricultural and rural development, and (g) human settlements and urbanization, with special emphasis on the problems of disadvantaged and vulnerable population groups, all with a view to improving opportunities for all sections of society. Particular attention will be directed towards promotion of cooperation between Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in dealing with the following key issues: (i) fulfilment of basic needs; (ii) provision of essential services, including health care, family welfare services, education, water supply and sanitation and housing; (iii) employment generation; (iv) technological progress and the minimization of adverse effects of technology on the poor; and (v) interrelationships between poverty and the environment.

2. Poverty remains and is likely to continue at high levels in the ESCAP region in the 1990s despite the impressive economic growth that has been taking place. Rapid economic growth, by itself, does not guarantee the elimination or significant reduction of poverty. A holistic approach to economic and social development, with poverty alleviation as its major focus, is therefore needed in the region.

3. Economic growth must continue, and it must accelerate, especially where growth rates are relatively low. The content of growth can be improved by reorienting the economy's production structure in ways that favour the growth of income of the poverty groups, and by redirecting investment to improve the productivity of the poor.

4. Poverty as an economic phenomenon is identifiable in terms of lack of income and consumption opportunities. However, it is as much a social phenomenon, often entrenched in the inequitable features of traditional social structures, institutions, attitudes and values, and further exacerbated by high population growth and density. In addition to economic deprivation, poverty is characterized by deprivation of essential social services and of opportunities to participate in development. Social development issues in their various dimensions will be vigorously addressed and comprehensive efforts will be directed towards poverty alleviation. Development policies and strategies will be promoted to ensure that the social aims and aspirations of the people, particularly the poor, are given commensurate attention along with the pursuit of economic growth objectives.

5. In this context, the distributive impact of economic growth and social development trends will be analysed, particularly the extent and manner in which poverty is alleviated in that process. Similarly, policies and strategies will be reviewed and reformulated to find ways of making them more effective for promoting equity and alleviating poverty.

Resource requirements

Work-months (Professional)						Extrabudgetary funds	
Regular budget				Extrabudgetary[a]			
Current	Proposed	Total	Percentage	Proposed	Percentage	(Thousands of US dollars)	Percentage
602	48	650	22	144	26.1	5 534	23.5

[a] Indicating allocation of proposed work-months from non-reimbursable loan (NRL) experts.

Activities:

3.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

(1) Reports to the Commission on the progress of the subprogramme (1994, 1995)

(2) Report to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development (1994, 1995)

Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development *(continued)*

(3) Report to the Commission on the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (1995)

(4) Report to the Commission on the Regional Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (1995)

Reports to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, on:

(5) Poverty conditions and poverty alleviation policies and programmes in the region, within the context of national development strategies and macroeconomic policies (1994)

(6) Factors giving rise to poverty (1995)

(7) Major economic trends, activities and policies and their impact on employment, income distribution, poverty and the environment (1994, 1995)

(8) Progress in the implementation of resolutions 274 (XLIV) and 48/6 concerning the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1995)

(9) Implementation of resolution 48/3 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (1995)

(10) Population issues relating to poverty alleviation strategies, policies and programmes (1994, 1995)

(11) Issues relating to agricultural and rural development (1994, 1995)

(12) Human settlements and urbanization issues, including implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 in response to ESCAP resolution 268 (XLIV) (1994)

(13) Implementation of the regional action plan on urbanization (1995)

(14) Issues in the field of human resources development (1994)

(15) Issues in the field of social policy, social services and social security (1994)

(16) Issues concerning women in development (1994, 1995)

(17) Selected successful experience in the introduction and utilization of science and technology in rural areas (1994)

Other reports, to:

(18) Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (1994)

(19) International Conference on Population and Development (1994)

(20) Report to the Regional Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (1994)

(ii) *Substantive services:*

(1) Commission sessions (1994, 1995)

(2) Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development (1994, 1995)

(3) Regional Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (1994)

(4) Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (1994)

3.2 Published materials

(i) *Recurrent publications:*

(1) *Social Development Newsletter* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

(2) *Women-in-Development Newsletter* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

(3) *Asia-Pacific Population Journal* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

(4) *Population Headliners* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

(5) *Demographic Data Sheet* (1994, 1995)

(6) *Newsletter on Poverty Alleviation Initiatives* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*

(1) Human resources development:

(a) *Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region*, rev. ed. (1995)

(b) *Fiscal Incentives to Support the Growth and Viability of NGOs in Support of Human Resources Development* (1994)

(2) Social policy, social services and social security:

(a) *The Role of NGOs in the Implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond* (1995)

(b) *Community-based Approaches to Drug Abuse Demand Reduction* (1994)

(c) *Legislation on Equal Opportunities and the Full Participation in Development of Disabled Persons* (1994)

(3) Women in development:

(a) *Asian and Pacific Plan of Action for the Advancement of the Status of Women* (1995)

(4) Population and migration:

(a) *Changing Family Structure and Its Implications for Poverty Alleviation* (1995)

(b) *Trends in Urbanization with Special Reference to Rural-Urban Migration* (1995)

(c) *Fertility and Family Planning, including the Development and Strengthening of Management Information Systems* (1995)

(5) *Growth Strategies and Structural Reform* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995):

(a) Regional information base on poverty issues

(b) Causes, characteristics and consequences of poverty

(c) Impact of structural reforms on the poor

(d) Role of the informal service sector in poverty alleviation

(6) *Agriculture and Rural Development Series* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995):

(a) Compendium of inter-agency work programmes on rural development

(b) Impact of target-group oriented policies and institutional support programmes on rural poverty alleviation, rural industrialization and employment creation

(c) Communication strategies for rural poverty alleviation

(d) Successful experience in the introduction and utilization of science and technology in rural areas

(7) Human settlements and urbanization:

(a) Innovative infrastructure and service delivery in low-income settlements (1995)

(b) Review of current research in urban issues (1994)

(c) Impact of innovative settlements-based poverty alleviation programmes (1995)

(8) Manuals, guidelines and annotated bibliography series:

(a) *Guidelines for National Programmes of Action in the Implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond* (1995)

(b) *Training Manual for the Development of Community-based Approaches to Drug Abuse Demand Reduction* (1994)

(c) *Guidelines for the Promotion of Non-handicapping Physical Environments for Disabled Persons* (1995)

(d) *Guidelines on the Development of Comprehensive National Policies on Ageing* (1995)

(e) *Annotated Bibliography on Policy and Programme Issues in the Field of Ageing* (1995)

(f) *Manuals on Population Information Networking and Database Development* (1994, 1995)

(g) *Guidelines for the Activities of National and Local Urban Forums* (1995)

(iii) *Technical materials:*

(1) Training material on the role of the private sector in human resources development (1994)

(2) Database on drug abuse demand reduction (1994, 1995)

(3) Translations of *Establishing and Strengthening Self-help Organizations of Disabled Persons* into five national languages, and into English Braille (1995)

(4) Regional database on women in development (1995)

(5) Asia-Pacific POPIN (Population Information Network) databank

3.3 Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work

(1) Review and revision of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1994)

(2) Linkages between population and poverty (1994)

(3) Regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development (1994)

(4) Regional preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (1995)

3.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

(1) Formulation of macroeconomic national policies for poverty alleviation; human resources development planning and programming; the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond; Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002; youth crime prevention and the treatment of young offenders; the Asian and Pacific plan of action for the advancement of the status of women; national women's information centres

(2) Implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development; population information centres and networks within the framework of POPIN

(3) Urbanization and sub-national area planning; the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), in promotion of non-governmental organization/city cooperation; programmes on settlements-based poverty alleviation

(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*

(1) Development of a comprehensive information base on poverty issues; the causes, characteristics and consequences of poverty; national development strategies and their impact on the poor; the role of the informal service sector in poverty alleviation

(2) ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development; the role of the private sector in human resources development; government-non-governmental organization cooperation in the planning and delivery of basic services to the poor; participation of women in politics as an aspect of human resources development; critical social issues in poverty alleviation; implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond; implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002; alleviation of poverty among women; establishment and strengthening of national women's information centres; implementation of the Asian and Pacific plan of action for the advancement of the status of women (1995)

(3) Demographic analysis, demographic estimates and projections; Asia-Pacific POPIN network; target group-oriented policies and programmes for rural development

(4) Impact of market reforms and price liberalization on agricultural and rural development; rural industrialization and communication strategies for rural poverty alleviation and employment creation; institutional support programmes for rural poverty alleviation; introduction, utilization and assessment of conventional and new technologies in rural areas

(5) Infrastructure and services in low-income settlements; sub-national area planning in the urbanization process; regional urban forum and regional network of human settlements research and training institutes on the alleviation of urban poverty, and settlements-based poverty alleviation programmes

3.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, ACC Task Force on Rural Development and other intergovernmental organizations; Inter-agency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific; Inter-organizational Task Force on the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization and its follow-up activities

3.6 Informational materials and services

(1) Information kit for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (1994, 1995)

(2) Exhibits for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (1995)

Subprogramme 4. Transport and communications

Orientation:

1. The programmed activities are designed for (a) identification of the problems of transport, communications and tourism in the region and the working out of feasible solutions; (b) coordination of transport, communications and tourism-related activities undertaken in the region by international and intergovernmental organizations; (c) strengthening of interregional cooperation, in particular with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region; and (d) technical assistance to developing member and associate member Governments at subregional and regional levels in the areas identified as high priorities by the Commission and the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, which are reflected in the new regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific.

2. Currently there are great differences in the development status of the transport and communications sectors of the developing members and associate members of the ESCAP region. These are due, mainly, to the complexities of geography and location, especially in the least developed, archipelagic and land-locked countries; differing levels of economic development; and development perspectives and policy orientations. Common problems include insufficient investment and maintenance, management difficulties, lack of integrated planning and coordination among different modes of transport, the slow pace of technological development, human resources development needs, outdated legislative and commercial frameworks, lack of data and information, and low private sector involvement.

Resource requirements

Work-months (Professional)						Extrabudgetary funds	
Regular budget				Extrabudgetary[a]		(Thousands of US dollars)	
Current	Proposed	Total	Percentage	Proposed	Percentage		Percentage
421		421	14	168	30.4	4 032.5	17.1

[a] Indicating allocation of proposed work-months from non-reimbursable loan (NRL) experts.

Activities:

4.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

Report to the Economic and Social Council

(1) Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1994)

Reports to the Commission

(2) Reports to the Commission on the progress of the subprogramme (1994, 1995)

(3) Report to the Commission on the Committee on Transport and Communications (1994)

Reports to the Committee on Transport and Communications

(4) Factors affecting the growth and development of transport and communications infrastructure and services in the ESCAP region (1995)

(5) Development of land transport linkages and facilitation measures (1995)

(6) Implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1995)

(7) Development and perspective of waterborne transport (1995)

(8) Tourism development

Other reports:

(9) Report to the Inter-governmental Meeting on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1994)

(ii) *Substantive services:*

(1) Commission sessions (1994, 1995)

(2) Committee on Transport and Communications (1995)

(3) Inter-governmental Meeting on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1994)

4.2 Published materials

(i) *Recurrent publications:*

(1) *Review of Developments in Transport, Communications and Tourism* (1995)

(2) *Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* (1994, 1995)

(3) *Decade News* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

(4) *ESCAP Tourism Review* (1 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

(5) *ESCAP Tourism Newsletter* (1994, 1995)

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*

(1) Transport and Communications:

(a) Development of multimodal transport (1994)

(b) Manpower resources in the shipping industry (1995)

(c) Road safety in the region (1994)

(d) Railway break-of-gauge problems (1995)

(e) Prospects for container shipping and port development (1994)

(f) Development of the freight forwarding industry (1995)

(g) Development of urban transport (1995)

(h) Improving the management/operation of inland water transport (1995)

(i) Transport financial/economic planning models: inland water transport module (1994)

(j) Commercialization of transport business undertakings (1994)

(k) Computerized asset management system (ports) (1994)

(l) Upgrading of dredging (1995)

(m) Land transport linkages development in the newly independent Asian republics (1994)

(n) Asian Highway Network development (1994)

(2) *Tourism Development* (1 in 1994, 2 in 1995):

(a) Promotion of tourism with emphasis on policy issues to maximize its socio-economic benefits

(b) Policy issues for expansion of tourism, strengthening of regional cooperation and promotion of intraregional tourism

(c) Tourism development in the Mekong River area

(3) Map:

(a) *Asian Highway Map*, rev. ed. (1994)

(iii) *Technical materials:*

(1) Database for maritime policy planning models (1994-1995)

(2) Provision of information in response to ad hoc requests from public and private sector organizations (1994-1995)

(3) Database and information system on the regional action programme (1994-1995)

(4) Transport financial/economic planning models (1994-1995)

4.3 Ad hoc expert groups and related work

(1) Road standards and rail route requirements (1995)

4.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

(1) Institutional development; transport and communications operations; multimodal transport and logistics; commercialization of transport and communications operations; the environment, safety and health in transport

(2) Strengthening of national capabilities in the expansion of tourism

(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*

(1) Institutional development; transport and communications operations; human resources development; multimodal transport and logistics; commercialization of transport and communications operations; the environment, safety and health in transport

(2) Strengthening of national capabilities in the expansion of tourism

4.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

(1) Coordination with member Governments; coordination through the organization of inter-agency meetings and consultations with concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific; coordination, harmonization and liaison with the subregional organizations and other intergovernmental organizations

(2) Interregional coordination with ESCWA for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific; liaison with the other regional commissions for the development of an interregional transport and communications project

(3) World Tourism Organization (WTO)

4.6 Information materials and services

(1) Exhibit for the Committee on Transport and Communications (1995)

Subprogramme 5. Statistics

Orientation:

1. The programmed activities will assist members and associate members and groups of countries in developing and improving their capability to identify, collect, process, analyse and utilize the data needed for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans and policies. The subprogramme will improve the availability of data on the region and its constituent countries through the gathering of demographic, social, economic and other statistics from members and associate members, and through the maintenance of these statistics in a form suitable for retrieval and dissemination through various means. It will foster the utilization of modern information technology in the public sector in order to strengthen the ability at both central and subnational levels to plan and manage economic and social development. In the implementation of the subprogramme, due consideration will be given to the priority statistical needs of the work programmes relating to regional economic cooperation, the environment and sustainable development, and poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development.

Resource requirements

Work-months (Professional)						Extrabudgetary funds	
Regular budget				Extrabudgetary[a]			
Current	Proposed	Total	Percentage	Proposed	Percentage	(Thousands of US dollars)	Percentage
195	24	219	7	24	4.3	1 048	4.4

[a] Indicating allocation of proposed work-months from non-reimbursable loan (NRL) experts.

Activities:

5.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

(1) Reports to the Commission on the progress of the subprogramme (1994, 1995)

(2) Report of the Committee on Statistics to the Commission (1995)

(3) Report to the Committee on Statistics (1994)

(4) Reports to other intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission (1994, 1995)

(ii) *Substantive services:*

(1) Commission sessions (1994, 1995)

(2) Committee on Statistics (1994)

(3) Intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission (1994, 1995)

5.2 Published materials

(i) *Recurrent publications:*

(1) *Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region* (1994, 1995)

(2) *Statistical Newsletter* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

(3) *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific* (1994, 1995)

(4) *Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific* (1994, 1995)

(5) *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

(6) *Asia-Pacific in Figures* (1994, 1995)

(7) *Government Computerization Newsletter* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

Statistics *(continued)*

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*

- (1) Statistical development (1994, 1995):
  - (a) Social and economic statistics
  - (b) Environmental accounting
- (2) Guidelines for the collection of environment data (1995)

(iii) *Technical material:*

- (1) Compilation and dissemination of data on social indicators (1994-1995)
- (2) Processing of data received from countries on national average prices and on expenditure (International Comparison Programme) (1994-1995)
- (3) Development of statistical databases: continuation of work on a network of compatible general and sectoral/thematic-specific numerical databases within the secretariat, as part of a United Nations information network (1994-1995)
- (4) Provision of ad hoc statistical information services and special data compilations: responses to requests for statistical information from users outside and within the secretariat, particularly in support of thematic analyses and studies, including data on investment flows (1994-1995)

5.3 Ad hoc expert groups and related work

- (1) Working Group of Statistical Experts (1995)
- (2) Working Group of Experts on Government Computerization (1995)

5.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

Organizational and institutional issues affecting national statistical services; utilization of existing data on poverty; planning, conduct, processing and analysis of population censuses and surveys; conduct of surveys on social and human development concerns; implementation of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA); implementation of phase VI of the International Comparison Programme in the ESCAP region; various aspects of economic statistics and sample surveys, including for economies in transition; environment and energy statistics; and the design and development of government information systems

(ii) *Group training, seminars, workshops:*

Improved management and organization of national statistical services; workshop on methodologies of poverty measurement; meetings on civil registration and vital statistics, GIS, and demographic surveys; selected aspects of human development indicators; technical meetings on the development of statistics on quality of life, children and women; subregional workshops on the implementation of the revised SNA; workshop to review data inputs for phase VI of the International Comparison Programme in the ESCAP region; training workshop on trade statistics processing packages; regional seminars on environment statistics and environmental accounting; training workshops on the design and development of government information systems, including the promotion of computer literacy and appropriate office automation in the public sector

(iii) *Field project:*

Technical and substantive support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)

5.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

With other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies; intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

Subprogramme 6. Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

Orientation:

1. The programmed activities are designed to meet the specific needs of two categories of developing economies in the ESCAP region: (a) the least developed and land-locked countries, which face special difficulties in their economic and social development, and (b) the island countries, which, as a group, have been growing at the slowest rate among ESCAP developing subregions. Through the programmed activities, these economies will be assisted in joining the mainstream of economic dynamism in the ESCAP region by addressing their special problems so that they will be able to forge closer cooperative relations among themselves and with the rest of the ESCAP region. Activities designed for this purpose are to sensitize these economies to the experiences and lessons from the more dynamic countries of the region.

2. The region has 13 least developed countries, 11 land-locked countries and 20 island developing countries. The groups of countries identified under the subprogramme overlap considerably. Of the region's 13 least developed countries, 4 are land-locked and 5 are island countries. The countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy also include a number of land-locked countries, including the newly independent Asian republics, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia.

3. The least developed and land-locked countries suffer in varying degrees from structural weaknesses and unfavourable geographic locations, as well as physical and institutional constraints. They present a special and challenging case of the general problems of development faced by other developing countries of the region. They share a number of characteristics, such as relatively narrow and inflexible resource bases, with the major part of their workforces engaged in subsistence agriculture. Many have large populations and high population densities. These, coupled with high rates of population growth, tend to aggravate rural poverty and contribute to severe environmental degradation, among other adverse consequences.

4. The land-locked countries of the ESCAP region are confronted with particular problems of transit and transport. They depend on the surface transport and transit facilities and services in neighbouring countries, involving additional freight costs, time and risks in the conduct of their external trade. The land-locked countries and the countries in transition to a market economy have an urgent need to acquire access to routes through the construction of road, rail, and air links quickly and in a cost-effective manner.

5. Among the major constraints to growth in the island countries are small domestic markets, the lack of diversity in resources (both natural endowments and human resources), heavy dependence on imports, diseconomies of scale in the provision of infrastructural services, and the high concentration of exports on a few commodities, which increases trade vulnerability.

6. As noted above, the development problems of these disadvantaged economies are wide-ranging and numerous. The proposed activities for the biennium 1994-1995 focus on the provision of technical assistance, which is important in complementing the efforts of these countries in their overall socio-economic development programmes. Additional activities are envisaged under ESCAP thematic and other subprogrammes, within the limitations of resources and the capacity of the secretariat, which give high priority to the needs of these countries in their overall approach to programming. In setting priorities, one of the criteria in designing the overall programme of work has been to ensure that the programmed activities/technical assistance projects are relevant to the needs of the weakest countries of the region. This subprogramme contains only those activities which are limited to these groups of countries.

Resource requirements

Work-months (Professional)						Extrabudgetary funds	
Regular budget				Extrabudgetary[a]		(Thousands of US dollars)	Percentage
Current	Proposed	Total	Percentage	Proposed	Percentage		
135.5	72	207.5	7	24	4.3	972.5	4.1

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[a] Indicating allocation of proposed work-months from non-reimbursable loan (NRL) experts.

Activities:

6.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

- (1) Reports to the Commission on the progress of the subprogramme (1994, 1995)
- (2) Reports to the Commission of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries (1995)
- (3) Reports to the Commission of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (1994, 1995)
- (4) Reports to the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries (1995)
- (5) Reports to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (1994, 1995)

(ii) *Substantive services:*

- (1) Commission sessions (1994, 1995)
- (2) Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries (1995)
- (3) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (1994, 1995)

6.2 Published materials

(i) *Non-recurrent publications:*

- (a) Development issues concerning the disadvantaged economies: economic and financial reforms for sustainable development of the least developed countries (1994)
- (b) Policy modelling in selected least developed countries: issues, techniques and applications (1994)
- (c) Regional cooperation in support of the economic and social development of the least developed countries (1994)
- (d) Review, monitoring and assistance in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1995)
- (e) Island developing countries: major issues and implications for macroeconomic and sectoral development policy and planning associated with greater economic and technical cooperation for development, especially with East and South-East Asia (1995)
- (f) Island developing countries: the potential and modalities for closer subregional and/or regional cooperation in trade and investment (1994)
- (g) Transport planning development for land-locked countries (1995)

(ii) *Technical materials:*

- (1) Preparation of a quantitative macroeconomic framework (model) for policy design/evaluation in the least developed countries (1994-1995)
- (2) Database on inter-island shipping (1994-1995)

6.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

Strengthening economic cooperation between least developed countries and other developing countries; integrating population factors into development and policy planning; island developing countries: selected aspects of development policy management and reforms of development policy and planning

(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*

Country-level training courses on the preparation of a quantitative macroeconomic framework (model) for policy design/evaluation in the least developed countries; mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; national workshops and a regional seminar on improving the access of women to formal credit and financial institutions in the least developed countries; regional cooperation in support of the economic and social development of least developed countries; economic stabilization, liberalization and deregulation in Pacific island economies; small ship management/operation between island developing countries

6.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

With UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), in the review and implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; with other United Nations agencies, multilateral institutions, and regional and subregional organizations and programmes

Appendix

Proposed regional advisers requested under section 7 of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Description	*Proposed for 1994-1995*
Development Issues and Policies (transitional disadvantaged economies)	1
Development Issues and Policies (UNDAT[a]-ESCAP/POC,[b] Port Vila)	2
Environment	3
Human Settlements	1
Industrial Development	1
International Trade	4
Shipping and Ports (Transport and Communications)	1
Natural Resources	5
Population	1
Social Development (including women in development)	3
Statistics	2
Transport and Communications	1
Energy	3

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[a] United Nations Development Advisory Team for the Pacific.

[b] ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre.

Annex II

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

None of the resolutions adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission have financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications		Second session Bangkok 3-5 June 1992	E/ESCAP/TAC/MMTC(2)/Rep.
Chairman:	Oli Ahmed Bir Bikram (Bangladesh)		
Vice-Chairman:	Inatoa Tebania (Kiribati)		
	Mohammad Saeedi Kia (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
Rapporteur:	Barry Vellnagel (Australia)		
Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology		Tehran 28-29 June 1992	E/ESCAP/893
Chairman:	M. Reza Nemat-Zadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
Vice-Chairman:	Samed Sh. Sadyghov (Azerbaijan)		
	A.M. Zahiruddin Khan (Bangladesh)		
	Lyonpo Om Pradhan (Bhutan)		
	Yao Zhenyan (China)		
	Li Za Bang (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)		
	P.J. Kurien (India)		
	Hartarto (Indonesia)		
	Noboru Hatakeyama (Japan)		
	Remuera Tateraka (Kiribati)		
	Sheikh Rashid Ahmad (Pakistan)		

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[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology (*continued*)			
Vice-Chairman: (*continued*)	Shin Kook Hwan (Republic of Korea) H.B. Wanninayake (Sri Lanka) M. Abalakov (Turkmenistan) Dang Huu (Viet Nam)		
Rapporteur:	Luke Rokovada (Fiji)		
Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference		Fourth session Bali, Indonesia 19-27 August 1992	ST/ESCAP/1198
Chairman:	M. Alwi Dahlan (Indonesia)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mahbub Ahmad (Pakistan) Shigemi Kono (Japan) Fuimaono Poloma Etevati (Samoa)		
Rapporteur:	Raj Abdul Karim (Malaysia)		
Committee on Statistics		Eighth session Bangkok 16-20 November 1992	E/ESCAP/896
Chairman:	Dato Khoo Teik Huat (Malaysia)		
Vice-Chairman:	V. Anandan (India) S.V. Balekiwai (Fiji)		
Rapporteur:	John Cornish (Australia)		
Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation		First session Bangkok 19, 22 October-2 November 1992	E/ESCAP/897
Chairman:	A.N. Ram (India)		
Vice-Chairman:	Li Shichun (China)		
Rapporteur:	Moezdan Razak (Indonesia)		

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation		Second session Bangkok 19-20 April 1993	E/ESCAP/898
Chairman:	Wang Baoliu (China)		
Vice-Chairman:	Ma Theresa P. Lazaro (Philippines)		
	Wonil Cho (Republic of Korea)		
	T. Ietaake (Kiribati)		
Rapporteur:	Hamid Nazari Tajabadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries		First session Bangkok 22-24 February 1993	E/ESCAP/899
Chairman:	Lava Kumar Devacota (Nepal)		
Vice-Chairman:	Kenji Shimizu (Japan)		
	Ntiua Tetinaniku (Kiribati)		
Rapporteur:	Noumea Simi (Samoa)		
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries		First session Bangkok 25-27 February 1993	E/ESCAP/900
Chairman:	J. Cecil Cocker (Tonga)		
Vice-Chairman:	Noumea Simi (Samoa)		
	Sumathee Srisuchart (Thailand)		
Rapporteur:	Ntiua Tetinaniku (Kiribati)		

Annex IV

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. Sales publications

Title	*United Nations publication sales number*
Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region	
Volume 8, *Bhutan*	E.92.II.F.7
Development Papers	
No. 12, Challenges and Opportunities of Restructuring the Developing ESCAP Economies in the 1990s, with Special Reference to Regional Economic Cooperation	E.92.II.F.11
No. 13, The Control and Management of Government Expenditure: Issues and Experience in Asian Countries	E.93.II.F.5
Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1992	E.93.II.F.6
Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XLII, No. 1/2, June/December 1991	E.93.II.F.2
Forecasting, Preparedness and Other Operational Measures for Water-related Natural Disaster Reduction in Asia and the Pacific (Water Resources Series No. 69)	E.92.II.F.6
Groundwater Quality and Monitoring in Asia and the Pacific (Water Resources Series No. 70)	E.92.II.F.8
Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XXII, No. 2, June 1992	E.92.II.F.9
Vol. XXII, No. 3, September 1992	E.92.II.F.12
Vol. XXII, No. 4, December 1992	E.93.II.F.4
Vol. XXIII, No. 1, March 1993	E.93.II.F.7
Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1992	E/F.93.II.F.1
Towards an Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development of Water Resources in Asia and the Pacific (Water Resources Series No. 71)	E.93.II.F.3
Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific	
No. 62	E.92.II.F.10

B. Documents submitted to the Commission

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/890	Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: implementation of Commission resolution 48/2 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/891 and Corr.1	Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 48/12	5 (b)
E/ESCAP/892	Reports on ministerial meetings and reports of subsidiary bodies: report on the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, second session, and follow-up action taken by the secretariat	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/893	Report on the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, Tehran, 28 and 29 June 1992, including the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/894	Population and sustainable development: strategies for follow-up of the recommendations of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/895	Major issues arising from the deliberations of the Committee on Statistics	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/896 and Corr.1	Report of the Committee on Statistics on its eighth session	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/897 and Corr.1	Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, first session	6 (e)
E/ESCAP/898 and Corr.1	Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, second session	6 (e)
E/ESCAP/899	Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, first session	6 (f)
E/ESCAP/900 and Corr.1	Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, first session	6 (g)
E/ESCAP/901	Selected issues in fields of activity of the Commission and reports on its regional institutions: progress in the implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/902	Selected issues in fields of activity of the Commission and reports on its regional institutions: Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/903 and Corr.1	Selected issues in fields of activity of the Commission and reports on its regional institutions: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries	7 (d)
E/ESCAP/904 and Corr.1	Selected issues in fields of activity of the Commission and reports on its regional institutions: problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/905	Selected issues in fields of activity of the Commission and reports on its regional institutions: preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization	7 (e)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/906	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	7 (g)
E/ESCAP/907	Selected issues in fields of activity of the Commission and reports on its regional institutions: preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development	7 (f)
E/ESCAP/908 and Corr.1	Report on the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	7 (h)
E/ESCAP/909	Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	7 (i)
E/ESCAP/910	Report of the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas	8
E/ESCAP/911	Summary of activities of the Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin during 1992 and plans for 1993	8
E/ESCAP/912	Report of the Typhoon Committee	8
E/ESCAP/913	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	8
E/ESCAP/914	Proposed programme of work and priorities, 1994-1995	9 (a)
E/ESCAP/915	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: follow-up in Asia and the Pacific	9 (a)
E/ESCAP/916	Report on the implementation of the programme of work, 1992-1993	9 (b)
E/ESCAP/917 and Corr.1	Proposed programme changes for 1993	9 (b)
E/ESCAP/918/ Rev.1	Tentative calendar of meetings, April 1993-March 1994	9 (a) and (b)
E/ESCAP/919	Resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council	9 (b)
E/ESCAP/920 and Corr.1	Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	10
E/ESCAP/921 and Add.1	Technical cooperation activities in Asia and the Pacific in 1992: information papers presented by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development and the United Nations Population Fund	10
E/ESCAP/922 and Add.1	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	11
E/ESCAP/923	Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fiftieth session of the Commission	12
E/ESCAP/924	Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1992: summary of part one	4
E/ESCAP/925 and Corr.1	Expansion of investment and intraregional trade as a vehicle for enhancing regional economic cooperation and development in Asia and the Pacific	4
E/ESCAP/926	Seoul Statement on Empowering Women in Politics	7 (f)

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, the Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, Macau, New Caledonia, Niue, the Republic of Palau and the Territory of American Samoa.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional economic commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VI

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in category I, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in category I may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6*(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or

more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in categories I and II may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in categories I and II on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in category I will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in category II will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in category I or II either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57[*]

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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ISSN: 0252 - 2284
Printed at ESCAP, Bangkok
June 1993 - 1,900

United Nations publication
E/1993/36
E/ESCAP/927